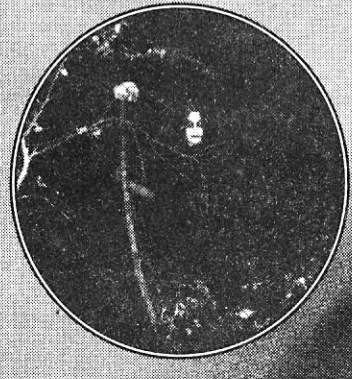
Volume II

DescenT

Bathory

Enslaved



Darkthrone

plus: Ulver, Thorns, Abigail, Mystifier, Thou Art Lord, Primordial, Sabbat, Satyricon, Fleurety, Typhon, Hades, Unpure, Metalion of Slayer magazine, and "Ritual.Ambient.Sound" featuring Necromantia, Mortiis, Equimanthorn, Darkness Enshroud, and the haunting Aghast. Articles, reviews, and a special gallery of Tania Steine's gothic art.....join us....

Descent

MAGAZINE

Volume II

Winter/Spring 1995

Editor n' Chief

Stephen O'Malley

Assistant editor

Runhild Gammelsæter

Contributors

Antoinette Flynn

Nebd

Tania Steine

Tylor

Special thanks to

Faoiseach Equitant

Lynn Hooghiemstra

Metalion

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Descent Magazine

P.O. Box 95931

Seattle, Wa

98145-2931

U.S.A.

phone: (206) 3675835

or (206) 5248607

When writing, please enclose some sort of

...I mørket kommer alt frem som var gjemt fra dagslyset. Om natten reiser dagens skygger seg og hersker. Dagen har vært alt for lenge; ett drtusen har vært slukket av lyset...skyggene er utolmodige...men de vet, som jeg vet, at mørket snart vil svelge lyset, som det alltid gjør, og at ett nytt drtusen tilhører natten og hennes skapninger...Skyggene lever.

Hill til de Norske hordene. Reis våpnene mot jehova!

Takk til min familie og mine venner.
Thank you to all my friends and correspondents.
A loud "Vinterskugge" to Count O'Malley for taking all my sarcastic comments (let's do the next issue in 8.22 point font!!!). Thank you, Lord Guerin, for all the support. A horsewhip for Sir Gregor "horS"layer" Anderson. A raised chalice to Baron Abaddon.

"God–the deification of nothingness, the will to nothingness pronounced holy!" (Friedrich Nietzsche, **The Anti-Christ**)

"I hver en natt er ett nytt mørke. I hver en Vinter fryser jeg, men dog Aldri skal jeg grate, for Stolt red jeg jo dengang, ut av den dype skogen" (Greift Grishnackh).

...ett øye for Norges skjønnhet...

Pick of the Day: (in alphabetical order)

Abruptum - "obscuritatem advoco amplectère me"
Burzum - "Det Som Engang Var"
Darkness Enshroud - "Ancient Kingdoms"
Darkthrone - "Under a Funeral Moon"
Disembowelment - "Dusk"
Emperor - "In the Nightside Eclipse"
Enslaved - "Hordanes Land"
Grieg - "Til en Djevel"
Immortal - "Diabolical Full Moon Mysticism"
Isengard - "Vinterskugge"
Neptune Towers - "Carvans to Empire Algol"
Opera IX - "The Triumph of the Death"
Orff - "Carmina Burana"
Rachmaninoff - Piano concerto in C
Satyricon - "Dark Medieval Times"
Ulver - "Bergtatt" and "Vargnatt"

- Runhild Gammelsæter

Your Prophetic Throne of Ivory

Translucent plains envisioned beyond the horizon,
I hear the flapping of wings,
the bestoking tranquility of irredescent spectrum,
the birds circle around my presence,
hinting at pale sighting of Kadmos,
all alone for dust ridden aeons,
alienation your inner method of nirvana,
there is no night, no day-Kadmos your preserved brotherhood,
the ivory your only only solace,
for where you sit,
in flight we persevere into the lights of the ivory plains,
structures from silence,
petals in the stream,
murk above the dark moor,
the eastwinds brush the dust from your prophetic throne,
in lands I never saw,
where the equinox was permanent,
the elephants trunk - the icon of your existence, for their is nothing else,
in flight we persevere into the mists of the ivory plains,
foregather in the name of Moros and remember our lands.
-Renato Gallina

Well after a long delay we bring you our second volume....no editor's statement here...I only want to state a few things...first of all I think you will see a few changes in the content and direction of DESCENT in the future as my tastes have turned towards some variations of dark tones which I'd like to expose. The focus will still be upon musical acts and personas hovering around, or within the"occult"...and experimental, original, and unique acts. We are always looking for contributors of art, prose, and writings...get in touch if you think you have something which would fit well in our pages. Anyways look for our third volume this summer...some acts already to be featured are N.M.E (finally), Ved Buens Ende, Blood Axis, Opera IX, Allerseelen , Disembowelment (their last interview, done in '93) and more....until then....
-Stephen O'Malley

ABIGAIL

Hate, war, brutality, aggression... these are all words which suit this Japanese band. If you are a fan of old VENOM then this is the band for you. Trademark riffing in a much more controlled yet noisier product...HSB records recently released a 7" by this act and a split LP on Warmaster is soon to follow with a split-LP... BARBATOS speaks about his dark ways...

Hello, Barbatos . . . let us begin. Abigail seem to mix elements of the old greats . . . especially Venom and Hellhammer . . . why do you think that influence is so strong?

You're right. My sound style to elements of Venom and Hellhammer. I'd like to say that my main influence comes from early black metal bands, so I think my style is not new. Also don't forget **Bathory**. *I have to say that* **Bathory** *is my sole inspiration.*

Also, along the same lines, Abigail's name is most likely drawn from Mercyful Fate . . . . . what are your thoughts of that legendary band and its recent rebirth?

The name **Abigail** *comes from* **King Diamond**. *Of course I love* **Mercyful Fate**. *"Mellisa", "Don't break the Oath" albums best. I heard the new album and live CD. It's cool. I hope he'll come to Japan.*

Abigail has broken into basically a solo project for you . . . what happened and do you think it is working out better there now?

I lost original member Youhei (dr) and Yasunori (g) in February '93. Youhei and Yasunori were very technical players, so it was unfortunate. But I know all instrument parts. As of right now no problem. Of course I'm looking for new members.

Tell us about the two upcoming releases (on H.S.B. and Warmaster) . . . in comparison to older material . . . are you pleased with the results?

First of all about the 7" ep. "Descending From a Blackend Sky" will be out soon on H.S.B. records (Holland). This label has The Unsane (Malefic Oath). He is a cool guy. In August '93, I recorded the 7" ep trax, but H.S.B. records are having some problems so the 7" eps are not quite done. I hope they'll be out soon. Including 5 trax but perhaps I must cut one song because of long time. In the end of June '94 I recorded 5 new trax for a split LP with **Funeral Winds** *(Holland) on Warmaster records (Colombia). I'm quite satisfied with this recording. Well Stephen, do you like it? The split LP might be out when you read this mag.*

Abigail is surely the heaviest, most chaotic "Black Metal" band in Nippon . . . staying true to the path Venom set, what can you say about the rest of Japan's "Black Metal" scene? What about Ohura-Mazdo?

Japanese Black Metal scene is really shitty. True Japanese black metal bands are only **Sigh** *and* **Abigail**. **Sigh** *plays real early Black Metal. Best Black Metal bands in Japan.* **Ohura Mazdo** *(R.I.P.) ? Ha, ha, the fake band is dead. I'll give you a story about a new Japanese fake band:* **Gorugoth**. *Don't support fake bands.*

You make a good point on saying "I'm not a Satanist because I am Japanese" . . . yet clearly you have sung about him (?) in the past . . . technically "Black Metal" is metal with Satanic lyrics . . . do you think this is still true today in our scene?

Yes. I'm not still a true Satanist. Now I'm studying about Satanism and oriental evil. My lyrics are copies of **Bathory**, **Destruction**, **Sodom**, **Venom**. *I influenced their old lyrics.*

It seems a lot of bands have moved away from the satanic theme to venture into more cultural themes . . . as Abigail has done with regards to oriental mysticism . . . tell us of the reasons behind this and the rites you practice. . . .

Oriental mysticism is great. Mainly oriental occultism which is called dakini. Nowadays the old ways are nearly forgotten. If someone should be interested in knowing more about it check out the **Sigh** *album "Scorn Defeat."*

Also, you seem to associate Abigail with the Yakuza . . . the legendary Japanese underworld Mafia/ assassins . . . . Clearly a group you are very proud of. In reality have you any associations with the group? . . . Your thoughts on them today?

Yakuza is Japanese pride. I have now many Yakuza friends. They're fucking killer. Some people were killed. I have eastern Black metal Yakuza inner circle with **Sigh**. *If someone want to join us, Abigail eastern Black Metal Yakuza T-shirts can be ordered from me. Ha, ha.*

Do your lyrics revolve around the previous two topics? . . . Can you tell us of the themes you focus on in the new material?

My new material (split LP) written by Vulpecula and me. But it is still secret. Well ancient, the horror, infernal damned earth, so on.

As far as the worldwide underground scene today . . . it seems (at least in the faction I mostly associate with) that Death Metal's day has come and gone now . . . what are your feelings about this. . . . is it true? Do you still enjoy a good Death Metal album once in a while?

Sorry, I don't know about the Death Metal scene, and I'm not interested in that scene. But trendy bands will not last. Like **Ohura Mazdo**. *Ha, ha. Black Metal is not a trend for me. It's my life and what I believe in.*

How about your influences . . . what are they today? What about your influences beyond music?

I enjoy today's Black Metal bands. Such as **Mayhem**, **Darkthrone**, **Emperor**, **Dissection**, **Order From Chaos**, **Grand Belial's Key**. *I'm influenced by early thrash and Black Metal.* **Bathory**, **Venom**, **Bulldozer**, **Destruction**, **Hellhammer**, **Celtic Frost**, **Sodom**, **Voivod**, **Kreator**, **Carnivore**, **Warhead**, **Acid**, **Necrophagia**, **Sigh**, **Merciful Fate**, *and so on.*

An Abigail performance must have been a sight from what you have told me. Describe the perfect Abigail show to our readers. . . .

Abigail *played gigs only 4 times with* **Sigh**. **Abigail** *covers December 8, 1992 at Tokyo harajukn L.A., our final live performance. I used fire blazing, knives, blood, etc., and we enjoyed some cover songs.* **Sodom**, **Bathory**, **Bulldozer** *etc.*

As far as the separate groups that seem to be arising following Euronymous' demise in August '93. . . . Where do you stand? Did this death (and consequently Mayhem's death as well) affect you at all? Last words on Mayhem?

Euronymous never dies.

Describe Abigail in your own words . . .

Abigail *is my life blood.*

All right Barbatos . . . Hail and thanks for the interview . . . final words?

Thanks for the interview Stephen. Maybe the 7" ep will be out in the end of summer '94. Also split LP will be out in November '94. I also got a new T-shirt. Two sided print on black shirt for $20. Postage is included. Demo is sold out. Support eastern Black Metal Yakuza. **Sigh** *and* **Abigail**.

c/o Yasuyuki Suzuki
59-7 Saiwai-cho
Itabashi-Ku
Tokyo 173
Japan

FLEURETY

One of the lesser known acts from Norge, I find FLEURETY to incorporate some of the most unique ideas with their music...here we have a brief examination into those ideas and the methods behind them with Alexander...

Ave Alexander! . . . Let's dive right into it . . . you've recorded an EP, a demo, and now you are working on a new piece. . . are you satisfied with the progression of the band thus far? What could improve things?

There was an obvious progression from the "A Darker Side of Evil" 7" both musically and sound wise. But our new material will be of an even more different character. Structure and instrumentalism is on a much higher level, and although more symphonic I think we have managed to keep the feeling found on the older releases.

The progression from piece to piece is satisfactory indeed, but too much time has been spent on every single release. We have been writing on "Min Tid Skal Komme," our coming composition, for over a year now, and it is still not finished.

Currently I believe this is the only thing we have to improve.

The concept of "Min Tid Skal Komme" immediately caught my attention, as I've never imagined that someone would mix two such varied arts as metal and ballet (!) . . . Speak more of this piece and tell us the story that the ballet hovers around. . . .

Ballet is a metaphor for physical movement, i.e. people should not come to our concert and expect the choreography to look like the "Swan Lake." Stine Marie, the dancer and choreographer, is now going to a ballet school and has the necessary skill and attitude to make this project reality.

The lyrics are written in the form of a short-story. As it is written in Norwegian we hope that the physical movement together with the musical creations will express the atmosphere of the lyrics in an intelligent way. Also for a foreign audience. The reason for writing in our mother tongue is simple; "Min Tid Skal Komme" was originally written in Norwegian, and the translation did not have the same feeling as the original. We will, though, write some translated lyrics when the LP/CD comes out which will be sent to people interested in getting hold of the English version. Just send an I.R.C. I will not try to abridge the story. As the whole scene takes place within a very short space of time and mostly consists of details this would not have a desirable effect. Await the LP/CD and lyric sheet.

"Min Tid Skal Komme" will be divided into four or five movements and last for about 40 minutes. Presently we will try to find some skilled session musicians for the concerts. Till then enjoy the LP/CD coming in early '95.

Ahh . . . you speak of drawing inspiration from mother earth. . . . <u>How</u> <u>does</u> the force of nature influence you in your compositions?

The force of nature is to me the only force. It is natural for me to seek inspiration here. I also have the privilege of living in a place where this force is very strong: The forest.

When I create music I always have the silent atmosphere from my last walk in the forest in the back of my head. The most primitive feeling ever found, but still sophisticated at the same time. . . .

Upon the same topic, you tell me of your <u>Anti-christian</u> ways . . . the <u>only</u> logical way, I believe. Do you agree that Christianity is the plague of mankind and mankind the plague of nature? Have you taken any steps to kill the plague?

Christianity is as good as any organized religion, which means I care as little for a Muslim as I do for a Christian. Mankind certainly is the plague of nature, so I agree with you, yes.

I have not burned down any churches. Nor have I killed any fags or friends, but I believe my presence in this world has eased some of the pain this before mentioned plague has caused.

Clearly Fleurety is a "satanic" name . . . yet you do not propose to following that path. . . . <u>Do you</u> practice any specific "arts," and why keep the name at this point?

*I think **Fleurety** is a very good name, and also a suitable one for our music which in my opinion surely is dark and obscure. Our lyrics could be characterized as Satanic as well, but does this necessarily mean that I <u>have</u> to call myself a Satanist? I say no and have consequently chosen not to. So has Svein Egil.*

The notion of being a Satanist is very wide, and some people wish to put us in that category. I choose to be true to myself.

A name change will <u>not</u> be considered.

Hill, brother thank you for this brief glimpse into Fleurety. . . . Closing words?

THANKS to you Stephen. The "Black Snow" demo is available from my address. The "A Darker Shade of Evil" 7" EP through AESTHETIC DEATH RECORDS. Both for the price of $5 (Europe) and $6 (world). Await our LP/CD out in early 1995.

AESTHETIC DEATH RECORDS, Sinwood, Pershore Road, Eckington, Worcestershire, WR10 3AP, ENGLAND

FLEURETY, c/o Nordgaren, Grav, 1914 Ytre Enebakk, NORWAY

MYSTIFIER

Here is a unique act whom, in my opinion, are among the best of black/death metal. Their occult-based lyrics and imagery compliments their powerful, sinister music perfectly.... with two powerful albums albums under their belts, we caught up with bassist Beelzebuth during the down time until the third...

Ave Beelzebuth . . . let's start things off here . . . why did you choose the name Beelzebuth for yourself? . . . Do you ally yourself with that particular demon? It seems that each member of the band has bestowed the moniker of a certain dark force upon yourselves. . . .

We put those names on ourselves because is feeds our real intention. We want also that the feeble minds have fear and stay far away from us. We could put our real names, but it would look like another thrash metal, grind core or capitalist band. I know that is a trend fashion act, but I allied myself to fight against it. Then, fuck off all the trend shitty bands who do it because it is beautiful, fun or trend!!!

OK, Mystifier have been around for about 5 years . . . Can you tell us a bit about what has come about for the band in those years? And have you had any luck finding a new 2nd guitarist and keyboardist yet?

We started in July 1989. I called some friends from old bands, which we had played before, to form a real evil band to demonstrate that a Latin Death/Black Metal (this style failed this time) band, formed by black guys, can "survive" without selling itself to the "capitalist monster/system." They were: Meugninousouan (now he is a stupid capitalist guy) on vocals, Behemoth on lead guitar, and Lucifuge Rofocale on drums. We've released the following stuff: Demo tape '89 "Tormenting the Holy Trinity" with nine songs, 7" EP "The Evil Ascension Returns" with 2 songs on Maniac Records, experimental demo tape '91 "Aleister Crowley" with 7 songs and album '92 "Wicca" with 9 songs on Hellion records. We fired Meugnunnousouan because of his bad English and idiot attitudes (He told me: " I'm a star of rock'n roll and want to earn much money . . ."). We called Asmodeus (Ex-Hatred) to replace him. At the same time, Astaroth joined us on second lead guitar. Then, we recorded our second album with the new members on Osmose Productions entitled "Goetia" with 10 songs. Behemoth left the band for some months, but he has now returned with his brother Pazzuzzu on keyboards.

Upon comparing the "Wicca" album to the "Goetia" I see a significant change in the sound . . . "Wicca" including a lot of death/doom-esque elements while "Goetia" is more refined and "Black." . . . Are you pleased with the results of "Goetia" and which direction is "Wicca" headed musically?

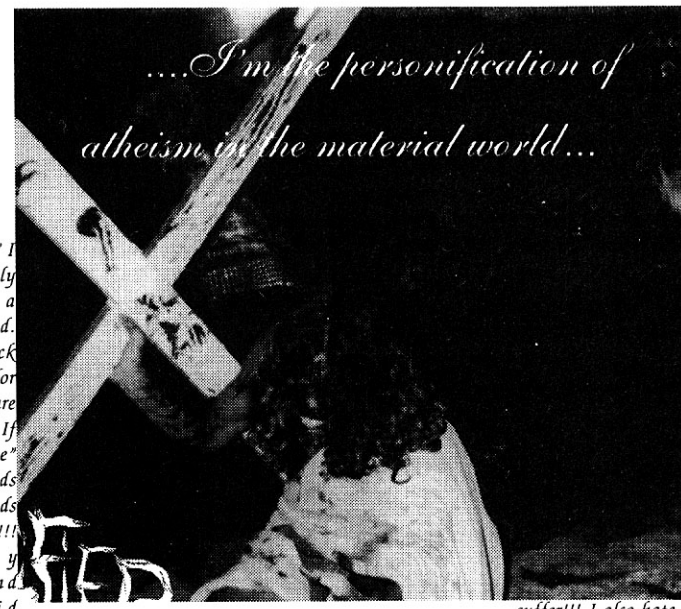
I'm not very satisfied with our second album. We received a reasonable budget to record it. I think we could do a better work with a good budget. We want to always develop into our own style of "music." I classify it of Unholy Anti-Music. We aren't a black/death metal band. The "true" death/black metal bands are going for the right way and we are going for the left way. If you want to hear "true" black/death metal bands listen to mercenary bands like ***Brujeria*** *(arrghhh!!! Shitholy rock'nrollshitgrindcorenoisestupid nonsensemusic!!!),* ***Napalm Death*** *(haaa...huuu....trend reigns here!!),* ***Carcass*** *(Jesus Christ fucks his souls and the devil fucks his ass!!),* ***Dismember*** *(Are we a death metal band?? No . .no . . . We are Power Metal now, but we are thrash metal now, but we aren't heavy metal now . . . we are . . .Oh God!!!! I don't know what we are now!!!? I think we are a trend shitstylefashionmetal band!!! That's all right now!!),* ***Convulse*** *(****Dismember*** *clones),* ***Sarcofago*** *(Are you a trendshittyasshole??? I'm!!!) etc. You can await very different stuff now, to our next albums.*

Your lyrics seem to deal with more anti-Christian themes than anything else, drawing from certain biblical passages. . . . Why do you draw your material from this book, doesn't it seem that you may be supporting it by using it for inspiration?

Hey man!! I've never used shitty-biblical drawings!! Though, I did it only in out first demo tape cover, but I did that only to profane it!!! I've used some biblical parts in my lyrics, but with the only intention to pollute them with my dirty hands (hate). My "music" claims for the fall of the occidental catholic society, so I'm not supporting it. I think you are thinking that the "Goetia" cover is a biblical drawing, but you are wrong. It isn't. It is about the ritual made by some necromancers to know the cause of Charles IX's (Catherine de Medicis and Henry III) fever. According to some historians, this is a veridical story.

Also, Aleister Crowley seems to be at the core of Mystifier (having 3 releases named for him). . . . your opinions of this brilliant man of yesteryear. . . .

"He is the personification of evil (I could say too:" . .The personification of intelligence"). The Master Therion. 666". Aleister Crowley opened our minds to a new and fantastic world with his spectacular work. He used the evil image of Satanism to divulge his ideology. Do you know "The Book of the Law" or some Law of Thelema?? It is fantastic!!! "Do what thou wilt. It shall be the whole of the law" said by the deities of the Egyptian Pantheon (The Goddess Nuit (the mother)), the God Hadit (the father) and the Prince Ra-hoor Kuit (the son) translated by A.C.). In our "music" "Aleister Crowley and O.T.O.", I used "you" instead "thou" because my (our) intention is to degrade the occidental catholic capitalists and idiot men. I use "thou" specially when I refer to some deity. I like to read about great philosophers like Crowley (Yeah, he is it for me), Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Thceguevara, Eliphas Levi, Proudhon, and many others.



At times your music reminds me of old Sodom. . . . Do you still appreciate older black acts and what are your favorite modern bands?

Hey man!! (Haaa . . . .) I don't agree with you again!!!! ***Mystifier*** *(the Unholy Underground Cult) reminds(??) of the poor mercenary* ***Sodom****???!! Holy fuck!!! But, really, I've heard some older ex-black metal bands but without any true feeling (They are dead for me!!). They've played black metal for money while I've played Unholy Anti-Music for love (the underground lifestyle is all for me). It is a big deference!!! The Underground Gods for me are* ***Bathory*** *and* ***Poison****. The modern bands who are making something really true and new for me are:* ***Impaled Nazarene, Necromantia, Samael, Acheron****, and a few others.*

Several Norse bands claim to be Aryan and professed neo-nazis. . . .Does this stand well with you? What do you think of nazi beliefs?

I hate those bands!!! I'm going to destroy all of them in Armageddon with my Black God Claim!!! I loved ***Mayhem*** *but when I knew they were into it I hated them. Dead's spirit (his image is among us) rules!!! But Euronymous . . . his soul shall suffer!!! I also hate that son of a bitch called count-stupidchild-gruntsnacth (Fuck you Christian son of Mary!!!).*

How is the unholy scene there in Brazil? Are there several decent acts out of your area or is it lacking?

Haaaaa . . . .hhaaa . . . .blaaaa . . . . .claaaaa . . . . Nothing to mention about it. It sucks.

I have heard that you recently had an offer to play a big show in Rio (or some other large city) but at the last minute did not go out on stage. . . Was this because Satan had not blessed you that night or was it for some other reason? Does Mystifier play live often?

We didn't play there because the shitty skin heads had threatened us of death if we appeared there (It isn't a joke). But now we are well enough armed to destroy them. Our revenge will be our triumph. We are going to play there on two dates.

Tell me about your beliefs. . . Are you a follower of Crowley's teachings and other occult matters?

I'm the personification of atheism in the material world. I haven't found my source of life yet. Can you help

me???? (Haaa . . haaa . . . It's a joke!!). I believe in myself and fight for myself. I don't need gods, saints, angels, etc. When I desire something, I work or fight to obtain it (I've the power to do it). I am not a slave!! I'm a faithful follower of myself. I'm a god!!!! (Haaa . . .haaaa . . .).

On your bio it states a philosophical thought "The REASON is the link between GOOD and EVIL". . . . Please explain your meanings by this statement. . .

I want to say: Only conscious ones have to keep in contact with me, O.K. ?!?!?!? The only difference between good and evil is the reason (It is the result) because there's not difference between them. I can speak a thousand things about this here. I would like that some conscious guys write to me and tell me something about it, O.K.!!! Feel free to do it.

As for the scene. . . . I guess it is safe to say that it is becoming saturated with many black and black/death style bands and personalities (a lot of fucking good ones too!). Do you think that this scene is beginning to drown itself

..if you want to listen to "true" black/death metal bands try mercenary bands like Carcass (Jesus Christ fucks his souls and the devil fucks his ass!!)

or is it only growing? And is death metal dead in the underground?

I think that those mercenaries are killing the old and good underground scene, DON'T SUPPORT MERCENARY BANDS!!!! I'm very sad about all that. The underground scene is failing because the stupid fans are supporting mercenary bands (those which I mentioned before and a ton of others). The old death/black metal feeling is dead to me. They (the false ones) won and we (the true ones) lost!!! It's a pity, but it's the truth.

Allright, Beelzebuth. . . . What can you tell us of the new Mystifier material (music and lyrics) and when can we expect a new release from this mighty band? And on which label?

We are writing new songs to our next album, which I think will be released on Osmose Productions. I had searched for inspiration to write my old lyrics in ancient Black Magick Books, satanic movies, legends etc. But, to our next release, I'll search for inspiration in myself (from my quotidian life and twisted mind). Our new material will be very different from old stuff and all other underground bands. (Haaa . . .ha . . I think it!!!)

What is Mystifier's goal?

Our goal is to destroy the occidental catholic capitalist society to construct another world in our view, free of racism, intolerance, preconceptions, violence, war ("War to the donkeys (politicians, nazi-shitty-heads, racists, etc.)"), injustice, misery, penury, and other natural plagues of this shitty world which lives. The capitalist monster says: "You shall suffer, to live and work and die. . . .". We say: "You shall not suffer and to work to construct a better and better world for you and your fellow beings. REASON is our word of order. . . ".

Thank you Beelzebuth for answering this interview. . . . Your final words . . . .

I would like to thank all our American worshippers (Hail!!!) for supporting us for all those years of evil and madness. I would also like to thank our greatest supporter O'Malley (Your spirit shall prevail in the underground). I'm sorry about my bad English. Satan blesses them.

c/o Armando Da Silva Conceiçâo
Rua André Rebouças, No. 01, Ribeira
Salvador/Bahai/Brazil

Have you heard Japan's SABBAT?? If you haven't you should... over th ten year existence they've delivered unto us several demo's, a few 7", and fo albums... staying true to their roots from the beginning and incorporating id from all aspects of metal have forged quite an interesting and enjoyal product...they explain it in their own words....

Ahhh . . . to whom am I speaking and how are you this dark night?

EMPEROR OF THE DARKEST! Evil fine I am. Than h fever.(Yezzz...-ed.)

***Sabbat** have been around since the old days (1984) . . . tell us a bit abo **Sabbat's** most interesting history and what has been your finest moment. . . What is the lineup at the moment?*

*The present is that **Sabbat** lives in hell. Many live-shows and recordin **Sabbat** stopped their activity in the past (1987) but they could still perform. It w a private problem. But it became clear already in '89 that the lineup at t moment, Barravea (guitar) and Possessed Hammer (vocals), used bad techniques, I dismissed them. . . .*

*You've seen the trends come and go, yet **Sabbat** seems to blend t different styles of metal with effectiveness. . . . Still, what is your favorite style metal and favorite band?*

*Our faith changes invariably. Our basic style has not changed. My favor bands are N.W.O.B.H.M. bands and European Heavy Met Thrash/Power/Death/Gothic etc. . . . I love **Venom** the most!! And I also li **Bathory**, **Celtic Frost**, **Iron Maiden**, etc. . . . of the early. Of the new I li **Decorah**, **Enslaved**, **Katatonia**, **Moon of Sorrow**, **Master's Hammer**, etc. . . . ve much. I always listen to everything of Heavy Metal music, but of course I lo Black Metal the most. Do you know **Grand Belial's Key**? I like their music ve much. Fuckin' great!!!*

*Also you witnesses the fall and rebirth of Black Metal. . . . What can yo say about this reborn popularity in the style and does **Sabbat** fit into this pictur Won't **Bathory** always be the kings? HAIL!*

Now Black Metal may be a trend! But Sabbat has no connection with i There is much Bathory style music all over the world. Bathory were surely king But bands who are copies of copies, are not,. Fuck off!

*I find **Sabbat** particularly interesting because they remind me a lot of m favorite era of metal . . . when bands like **SLAYER**, **Destruction**, **Kreator**, an **Blessed Death** were kings! Your opinion on that time and era of death and thras . . ('84 - '87)*

I think that the original good thrash bands are the only bands of the ear thrash scene. Of course I like this thrash scene. The roots of death metal and thra is the N.W.O.B.H.M. and some power metal.

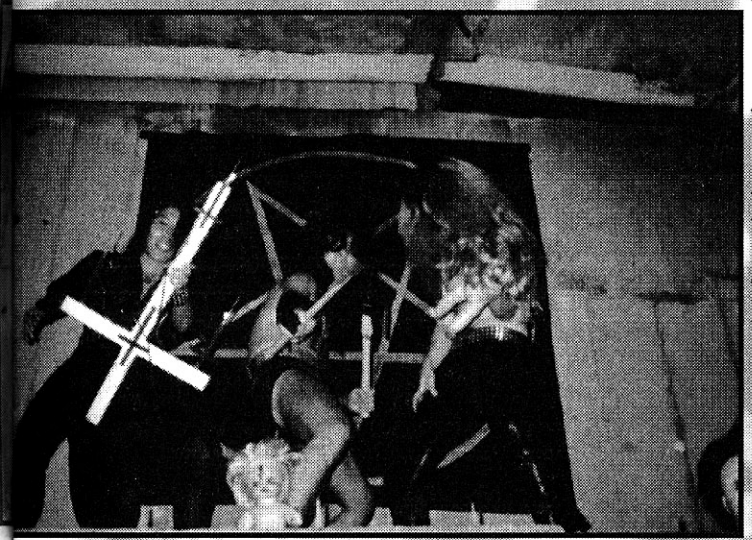
Let's talk abit about Evil Records. . . . Why was it formed, and when . . also what is Evil Records goal? Tell us about your past and future releases. . . .

*Evil Rec.'s goal? Yes it's nothing. So ETERNAL!!!! And immortalit Deeper than hell bottom! If something didn't begin, . . . anything is nothing!! So, started it myself. The Japanese underground scene has always been hell. Now an in the past. There now are original, good Japanese bands. I'll release some of the soon. Future releases are **Voidd**'s second CD and **Sabbat**'s new CD, Live CD, an Tenth Anniversary Volume 2 CD in Japan. There are a few original bands. Bu Japanese forming bands break up fast. So our scene doesn't have a future. I' sorry about it.*

*How is **Sabbat**'s following in Japan? From what I understand the sce over there sucks . . . yet you've toured several times? Describe the perfect Sabba performance. . . . Do you include pyrotechniques, spikes, blood etc. In yo performance?*

*I think **Sabbat**'s music style is very special. So, in Japan bands like o*

Sabbat



music style, NO! But there are a lot of bands with a different music style here: Black Metal. **Sigh**! (Very good), **Abigail** (I love their music) and new anti-Christ superstars **AMUDSCIAS**! **Amudscias**'s style is like the northern trends. But very good! **Sigh**' s Mira plays piano on their first demo tape.

Sabbat live is Black power. Darkened play only. But we don't need props on the stage.

Let's talk a bit about Satanism and your views on it. . . . How do you feel about organizations such as Church of Satan? Are their methods agreeable or do you find them to be total shit? What path do you follow?

Our Satan is not hate alone. Also sorrow, power, cries, violence, love, etc. Our Satan changes freely into anything that you need, and that I need. We're not religioners. We're musicians! In Japan the concept of religion is fucking freedom. I say fuck off religion!! I believe in myself, and my Satan. The suckers' religion is always war, aonery and HATE. If war was to happen here, we could not play music. It's fucking shit!! So I say that Satan is not religion. Satan is our faith for heavy music. Your heavy music.

Also, along these lines, most Japanese I've talked with say there is no point in being a Satanist in Japan as Christianity doesn't exist there. . . . Instead they follow the practices of their ancestors and oriental mysticism. . . . Do you also practice those once forgotten rites? "Victory of Dakini" . . .

A fuck off to Japanese religion as well!! I don't know oriental mysticism nor rites. All is shit.

About **Sabbat**'s goals and dreams . . . what are they? A U.S. tour? HA HA HA! Seriously, what would you like to see **Sabbat** accomplish?

Of course our dream is a U.S. tour and a European tour! But first of all, we need a record contract, for our albums of the past and new albums. If you're interested, contact me. But Sabbat has no goal. Our goal is the end. We are forever evil!!

OK, you've watched the scene grow into the mass it is today . . . what is one of your complaints about the underground???? How does Descent Mag. Stand up in the sea of publications in your eyes?

Surely the underground is chaos and hell. But I love hell!! Hell is true, reality!! I'm satisfied to keep playing the music of **Sabbat**. I think Descent Mag, is fucking great. Black metal of the world, we can know it, their faith and action! Also anything that I know, MANIAXXXX!! I think you get better reactions that anybody in the whole world.

OK about the younger bands of the world today. . . . What region do you see as producing the best material? Some bands you could recommend to us?? What can you say of your brothers in mighty **Sigh** and **Abigail**

Sorry, I don't know about **Abigail**. I didn't get their demo tape from Mirai/**Sigh**. AHA! **Sigh** is very great 'cuz their music is original! A little bit of Japanese melody. Sometimes heavy, a little like pagan woods. . . And **Amudscias** music is also very good. Their melodies are very evil!!

My favorite region is Greece and the Northern areas. I'm looking forward to all new growth here. **Thou Art Lord**, **Nergal**, **Nightfall**, **Vorphalak**, etc. . . . Also Portugal . . . **Decayed**, **Moonspell**, **Filli Nigratium Infarnalium**.

Allright, lets talk about **Sabbat**'s newest material. . . . What can you tell us about your planned releases (song titles etc.) ? In which direction do you see **Sabbat** moving musically?

NO! Sabbat's basic style is always the same. It doesn't change. Sabbat's new plan is Evil Records 10th Anniversary/ Sabbat 10th Anniversary Vol.2 . "For Satan, and SACRIFICE." Our slogan is "Black up your soul for Satan, and sacrifice" so, continued. The tunes are remakes of singles (EPs) and unreleased trax and more. Also **Sabbat**'s live CD "Live in Evil" and the new CD will be out perhaps in the end of 1995. But, if someone is interested in our new album, I can contact a nice guy in the area, except Japan, where it is now for sale. "Fetishism" ER666-009 is just Heavvyevillll!! A little gothic; darker and a little more atmospheric! "Black Up Your Soul" ER666-UUA is a remake of Eps and unreleased trax. I'm satisfied with both! But Fetishism's first cover "Baphomet" is sold out, sorry. Next cover is "Bloody Skull Fish"!!

Of **Sabbat**'s work I have only heard one complaint . . . at the end of "Hungarian Death No. 5" ("Disembody" CD) . . . What the hell are you trying to do? Make all of us stupid American speakers blow out so we can spend more $ on Japanese products? HA HA HA! You fuckers!

OH! You've been baptized by **Sabbat**!

You meet someone at a bar . . . Things move along and you mention that you are in Sabbat . . . They ask about the band . . . What do you say to describe **Sabbat**?

Black "Hara-kiri" metal AHU. OK **Sabbat** is old black metal scene , but at the same time the newest black metal, and also true heavy metal, the DARKEST most EVIL from Japan.

Cold winds blow as I complete this interview! . . . Last words before the end?

You must get black metal! Welcome to the darkest dark side of Japan!! More evil! More moon! More winds!! To the woods of the east! SATAN BLESS YOU!!!!!

c/o Masaki Tachi
1056, Hoshikawa
Kuwana, Mie,511
Japan

primordial

Primordial have the privilege of being the first Irish act of the underground scene to obtain a proper record deal. Their haunting, blatantly pagan lyrics are alternately shrieked and recited against a framework of eerie, yet compelling sounds. Vocalist Naihmass guides us through the world of these pagan warriors...

Greetings Naihmass - how are you today?

Still alive Antoinette...still alive.

Primordial's "Dark Romanticism" demo was released in the summer of '93 - can you tell Descent how that sold, and how you feel about that demo now?

To this moment we have sold about 550, which I suppose is O.K. I still love and am very proud of the demo as a part of me is encaptured within. However we have progressed far further into the darkness, and our present day creations are superior in all ways. Darker, colder, and contain infinitely more passion, emotion and soul, you will hear. "Dark Romanticism" captured us near perfectly at a certain stage of our evolution...however we now dwell on far higher planes. "Dark..."will always be available.

How did Primordial's deal with Cacophonous happen? Are you pleased to achieve "deal status" after only one demo?

It happened due to my realization of the total inabilities and incompetence of Candlelight records. So I sent my good friend Nihil a live promo from July '94. And he offered us a deal. Simple as that. I am not pleased to achieve any status...It is and was an inevitability. I know I criticize other bands, well I suppose labels for signing up bands and it still lives. Of course I feel...

What are your religious beliefs, and can you discuss how these developed within you, over the years. Do they affect your lifestyle? If so, how?

It is not for me to show others my world, I and I alone dwell there. Every day I journey further and further into my world.... It is endless. My "beliefs" do not "affect" my lifestyle. I have no "style," only life...and I live what I am, and what I believe. My beliefs (what I am) equal life, and I live life, understand? My path is for none but me.

How deeply do you involve your personal values with Primordial's material? Does the rest of the band share your values?

What values? Everything I am is ingrained deep in the music. We are all individuals and approach being in the band differently, we don't share "values," whatever that means? We all bring something unique.

Do you think the resurgence of interest in the religions and arts is a good thing? Why?

Yes...our only future is the past, so if more people want to discover their roots and it's culture, then that can only be good.... The ancient ways are the only ways.

Primordial has a strong Irish following - Outside of Ireland, how strongly has interest been expressed in the band?

Do we? Perhaps we have an Irish following, but I have met precious few "strong" individuals. We are gaining interest all the time...our wings are spreading.

[A] Corpsepaint

Warpaint I call it...Some people can make it have the desired effect.... For me it is an art, and a deep visual focus for my inner emotions and a furthering in the process of their release. Trendy I suppose, but I have my reasons and don't care for trends or clowns.

[B] Anton LaVey

The initial statements in the Satanic Bible are worth reading, even if they are ripped off "might is right"...as for the rest there are a few good points. But most of it I find too self-evident, Americanized, and coupled too closely with christianity. I don't follow LaVey.

[C]Manowar

Kick major fucking ass, hail the metal kings (I'm not joking either!!).

[D] Your Celtic cloning

Ha ha...They say I look like a Celtic warrior and I suppose I do. No complaints from me.

[E] the end of the world in the year 2000

Nostradamus saw many things, although I haven't really studied him enough to answer... If it comes I shall greet it.

[F] Sex

One extra thing to keep living for...music...majjick...sex...ha ha.

[G] Recluse in the north of Ireland

Don't bore me Antoinette...I'd much prefer if all those so called chrisitans fighting for live a more recluse life, to move out of the city, and to be having the same blood coursing through my veins.

[III] in your lifetime?

To die fighting and with honour. Perhaps tomorrow...perhaps....

You seem to have a higher profile than the rest of Primordial - is this deliberate?

Well I mostly do interviews and speak to various people... And am known. The others... have no wish to be spoken to and live miles away in their own misanthropic isolation. It is not deliberate. Although I suppose I a designated spokesman. And public relations, and I'm glad to say I'm failing.

What do the other members do when they are not being in Primordial?

Ask them, if you'll ever find them. I don't know and don't care.

How is the zine "The Oath" doing?

Fine thank you.... How is "Depraved"? (Issue number three is already in preparation of "The Oath").

Do you enjoy life? Why, or why not?

I live life to the furthest reaches of every facet of my being... Life is spent at this...task, or is it task? It is the way it is. I am life.

What is your greatest fear?

Greatest fear ? To die without honour maybe.

without and inkling of their individuality after one average (or not so) demo...still I don't care...I know the time is right for Primordial.

Where will you be recording, and when will the new opus be released?

Sorry, we have agreed to tell no one exactly when or where we are recording...why?...Because we are eccentric and can do without people annoying us about things that don't concern them,... however fair question Antoinette only I'm not going to answer it. When?... Whenever all the pieces fall into place.

Can you describe the material which will appear on the release, musically, and lyrically?

Musically we seem to have trively found our niche. The music is dark, pure, cold, winterish, evocative, passionate, melodic, emotive and we have found more of our Irish identity, and some of it is decidedly pagan and ancient in feeling, which is only inevitable, when you consider what we believe. Of course some of it is of a more sinister shall we say "Satanic" nature, but that's more to do with me than anything. Lyrically...? I am painting more dark, emotional, passionate landscapes than before. My soul is in every word. "Let the Sun Set on Life Forever" is about carrying innocence in the shape of a naked, bleeding girl at night through the snow clad forests, to face the dawn...as the light fetters through the trees upon her body, the dawn is that of the past, and she is modern innocence before it...However the deeper meanings are really for me, for readers and listeners Primordial is about journeying to other worlds.... Traveling with us to the other sides, the voids, the abyss or purely to feel the cold of the winter on your skin as the girl in my journey does... All the lyrics are in the first person, and are written really for myself. If anyone can get to feel a tiny piece of what I am feeling when playing and writing this song, then they will have touched the naked darkness....

Naihmass, how strongly do you feel about your Celtic and pagan roots and culture?

Our blood shall live forever. The fire is still burning.... All that is of the earth shall return. It is in me and I in it, I am born from these times,

What are your emotions when performing live - and what has been your best gig to date and why?

I am on another plane, somewhere else. I have visions on stage of the images the lyrics convey, hallucinations if you like.... I go from one high to another in a split second, from one emotion in it's extremity to another.... I suppose all the readers will maybe understand if they see us ever. Who knows? Best gig? No best gig...they are all different passages in time.

How do you feel about those who threaten you for what you do?

They can if that makes them seem worthwhile or important for a brief second in their pathetic lives... But they will know the power of my sword if they dare try anything.... I have nothing to lose, and don't fear death and if they understand that, then they must accept the consequences, mostly it's petty jealously or fear of what we represent.... But someday these weaklings will meekly crawl before death.

What are your views on the following topics:

religion killed each other...cleansing through war.

If you had not been born and Irish Celt, now when/what would you like to have been born?

You mean 1994? Perhaps...not at all.

What would you like to achieve most in the next

[1] year?

LP/CD out...shows in Europe. Further empowerment and working to live my life by my codes of life, everyday. And to journey further upon my path...it will happen.

[II] 5 years?

Still creating, still living my life. And to

Do you enjoy you reputation as the most evil soul to drift through the Irish underground?

Ha ha... I only see through my eyes not others. I don't care how anyone sees me. The Irish underground is so frail I could blow it away on the wind.

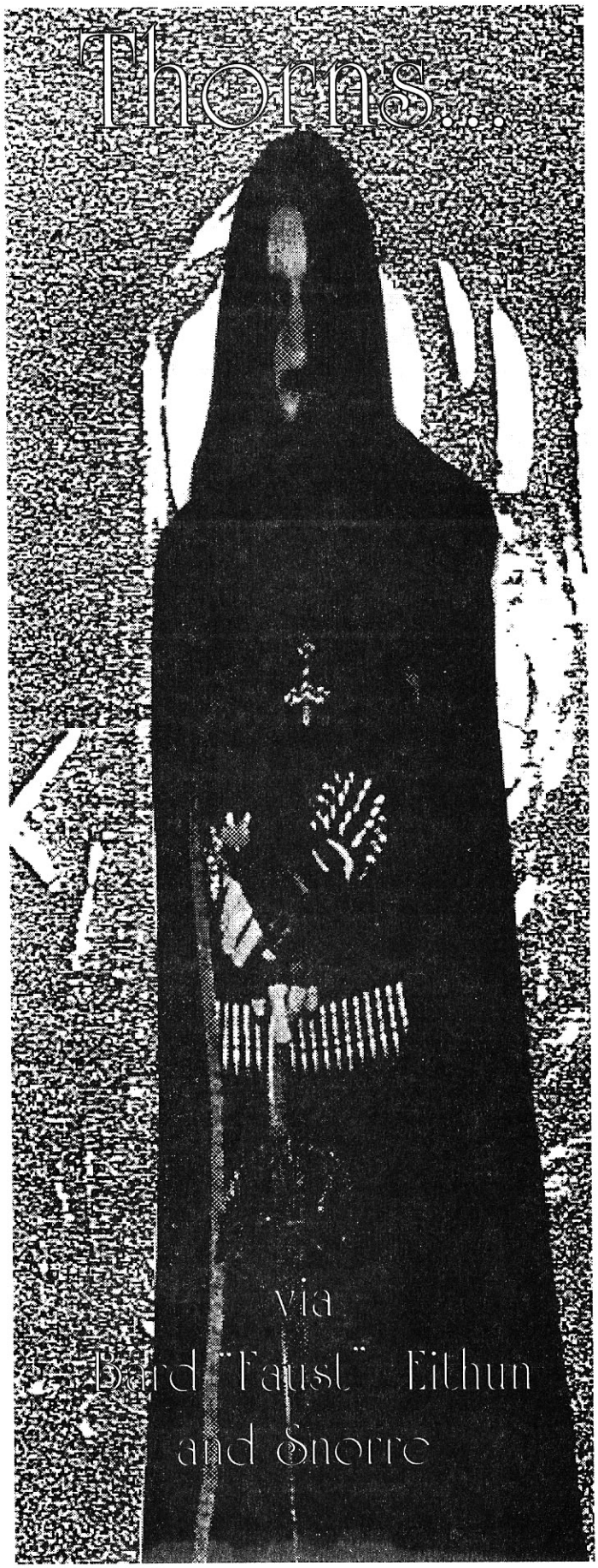
Have you any sefarious syllables to share before you depart?

Hail Antoinette, hail Stephen, hope you get what you want out of life. Sons of the Morrigan. Ancient blood. Forever. Salve.

LP/CD on Cacophonous records.

(Demo/zine $5) Address:

Naihmass
22 Stantion Road
Sutton
Dublin 13
Ireland



THORNS...a name known to few... this band has been in various forms of existence since the early part of this decade... having recorded only a two track unreleased demo and a few obscure rehearsals they have remained relatively unknown in the scene. The band recently reformed after a two year haitus (as a result of Bård's entering EMPEROR and guitarist's Snorre's into MAYHEM) when two of the three original members were sentenced to the same prison (from "crimes" you will read about later in this interview).... fate has shone on this act... we speak with both Bård and Snorre...

Hello again my friend… how goes things at this moment?

Ave! Things are going acceptable I think. The authority at the prison tries to make my time hard, but I will manage. I live in my own world and they don't exist in it.

Let's jump right into it… Emperor's "In the Nightside Eclipse" album is set to be released in just a few weeks (finally)…What are your feelings about the final result? Would you go back and change anything [on the album] if you could?

Yes, "In the Nightside Eclipse" is soon to be released now (almost 14-15 months after it was recorded). Music-wise and product-wise, we became very satisfied with the final result. Of course there are things that could have been played better and effects that could have been removed etc., but we can live with it. Personally, the album means very much to me as it is a monumental end for me in ***Emperor*** *(it was recorded only weeks before my arrest). It's certainly a big tragedy that I'm unable to be in* ***Emperor*** *in the future, but I'm with them in spirit. No matter what hard conditions the band is in,* ***Emperor*** *will never die. That which doesn't kill us makes us stronger!*

After your leaving Emperor, Hellhammer, from the mighty Mayhem stepped up to your stool in the band…is there any resentment between you two because of this… and what are your thoughts on him reforming Mayhem ?

There is no reason I should feel any resentment because Hellhammer replaced me, as I had caused the situation myself that lead to a point where I was unable to continue ***Emperor****. It's obvious that the rest of the* ***Emperor****-guys had to find a worthy replacement. I was actually very satisfied with Hellhammer taking over my place as I knew him and knew that he is a great drummer, so they could never have found a replacement I would have been more satisfied with. But this is not really interesting anyway, because Hellhammer has now been kicked out of* ***Emperor****. It became clear that he wasn't very dedicated to the band's concept, so the other guys felt it was necessary to kick him out. Reforming* ***Mayhem****…! This is sad, because I think Hellhammer is more productive than to live on old memories and status. He must understand that* ***Mayhem*** *can never be the same without Euronymous.* ***Mayhem*** *better rest in peace I think.*

As for your trial… you seemed to avoid the media a bit better than some others… maybe you can explain to us a bit about the whole thing? What did they finally convict you with?

I tried to avoid media mainly because I'm not interested in creating the most shocking and brutal headlines in the tabloid-press. I work through the underground-press, not the tabloid-press! There are two reasons why I mostly avoided the media. The first is the Olympic winter games that took place the same week as my trial (this was a conscious move from my lawyer). The other is that I'm not so keen on media-coverage and publicity as certain other people tend to be.. I don't have it as a main goal in my life to impress 14-year old chicks because of my newspaper headlines. I still gained a certain media coverage, as my case was a "very special murder case", but I expected that anyway. I was finally convicted with first-degree murder, arson of a church, desecration of graves, theft of headstones and furniture from churches, forced entry into lodges and some other shit I believe. The police could have put some other things to my charges, as possessions of illegal videos and weapons, but they were dropped, because these are minor details only, in comparison to murder and arson.

From my point of view it seems that your killing of Magne Anderassen was the spark that set off everything in the scene in Norge… the event that started all of the chaos… do you agree with me and also do you regret what you (and others) have done?

I believe the killing inspired many of the people in the scene that heard about it, to continue the activity, but it did by no means create the chaos that rose from the Norwegian scene last year. It was the murder of Euronymous that totally blew things off. My murder remained unsolved until Euronymous was killed. I can't speak for other people, but personally I stand for everything I've done.

What drove you to kill a man? Maybe you could explain to the readers what happened that night and subsequently?

I don't know how much I can say, as this is read by the prison, but it's quite simple…I killed a man…I just wanted to! Then I was out for a year, and so arrested…Life is simple isn't it?

In my country, homosexuals are a big political voice, although their numbers may be small…currently they are campaigning for equal rights as if they were a separate race. I think this is wrong and unjust. What is your opinion on homosexuals and what is the situation like in your country?

To be homosexual is much more taboo in Norway than it obviously is in the USA. The fags here are mostly ashamed of being fags and they are very much in the background. Basically I don't care about them as long as they keep to themselves, but they are disgusting anyway. I suppose their fave hobby is to lick shit off their dicks after penetrating another man's ass!

Ahh, you tell me that Thorns have risen again behind the walls… yet the history of the band is a bit of a mystery to me…tell me a little bit about this, and the rebirth…

*The history behind **Thorns** is not really interesting I think. The important thing is that Snorre and I are Thorns and will forever be. It's quite ironical that we got the chance to start up Thorns again behind the walls…*

The music of Thorns (at least the rehearsals I have) has an extremely moody gothic feel to it… tell me some of your inspirations for composing these pieces…[the following 2 questions are answered by Snorre]

*Snorre: The music of **Thorns** was, during the first years, mainly inspired by the Norwegian nature and weather. I used to live in a city about 500 kilometer below/south of the Aretic circle, and during the 6 months of winter we seldom saw any signs of the sun. When the temperature sinks 20 degrees below 0 (freezing point of water) and the snow lies one meter thick on the ground… and when the wind whirls the snow around like restless phantoms, you tend to get inspired! At least I do…*

Earlier I was also much inspired by Norwegian folklore, and tales for children. I made some music based on the rhythms of Norwegian folkmusic, and some of it turned out more or less like nasty music for kids! I do not listen much to the Black Metal bands of today, because I think most of it lacks the feeling. I still listen to some oldies and I just love "Hell Awaits"!

__Thorns__ today is a mixture of things that I miss in music, and by that I mean moods that no band have yet produced, and the pictures/fantasies that are in my mind. I must try to convert these things into music.

And what of the lyrical content? I am a bit unsure of the topics and themes that you base your songs around… could you explain?

Snorre: The lyrics are mostly of the same origin as the music. The words must for the music and the mood of the song. It must become a whole. I think the lyrics are just as important as the music. The result depends on both.

The topics are a bit too complicated and manifold to describe in few words. They are mostly small plots and pictures. They are not particularly full of joy either…. I try to avoid cliches also. Though it is nor always easy. You'll just have to wait and until something will be released!

Thorns always seemed to hold a sort of cult status, yet never released anything officially…. I imagine the band was in habits after your joining Emperor and Snorre in Mayhem… what is the future for Thorns ? Perhaps a goal you have?

*I think the mysterious profile we held lead to a certain cult status. No one knew who we were and our music was extremely avant-garde and special. I think it still will remain that way. The final end pt. 1 for **Thorns** was when I joined **Emperor** and Snorre joined **Mayhem**. Then we decided to put the band on ice. **Thorns** has nevertheless risen from the ashes.*

OK…Euronymous' killing stunned much of the scene…and now, a year later, people are finally realizing what really was going on… how did this event affect you? What is your opinion of Euronymous and also of "The Count"?

This event affected me quite a bit, because I didn't know that Varg was stupid enough to attack a comrade of himself. What did he think he achieved with that? He only destroyed the scene, and besides that, I lost a good friend of mine. People are blind fools as always as they actually believe Varg when he tells them lies about Euronymous being a fag, a wimp and a loser. Varg consequently spread lies about Euronymous, so people shall believe Varg actually did us a favor by killing Euronymous (which again means more supporters for the publicity loving Varg). But still it looks like more and more people are getting up their eyes and understand how false and full of complexes Varg is and how very much we owe to Euronymous for everything he did and gave us. For me, Euronymous will remain as the true symbol of black metal. He was very primitive but at the same time deeply intelligent and he combined business with pure idealism for the scene. A great personality is gone.

Also, Varg Vikernes claming that you, Samoth and a few others are traitors…. with your being responsible for several of the arrests in Norge… what really happened and any comments on this view?

Varg Vikernes is too blind or scared to face the truth! It is very obvious that it was the murder of Euronymous that lead to all the arrests in the Norwegian scene. Me and Samoth were some of the last that were arrested, so obviously, we can't be the ones that turned everybody in as Varg claims. I think that Varg looks at me and Samoth as a threat against his existence in the scene (we have lots of contacts that could get people on "our side", so then he starts to spread untrue rumors and lies about us, with the intention to get us unpopular). What he does not understand is that we don't need to spread false lies about him, because people will, as time passes on, understand what a false idiot he is…everything will come forth by day!

It seems that there exists a segment of this scene also whom are anti-Euronymous… I really think they don't know what they are talking about…you?

They are only idiots and no serious threat against us who know the true story. But still, they didn't know Euronymous personally, so therefore they shouldn't judge him at all (at least not out of the words uttered by Varg). But I don't care about them anyway. They will either fall out of the scene or realize how terribly wrong they are, so let 'em continue.

Recently there has been a spread of so called National Socialism in the Black Metal scene…. Does this have any place in it, or do any politics for that matter?

Basically, politic has got no connection with Black Metal, but personally I mix both terms into my life. I look on myself as a nationalist (for reasons I don't wanna discuss here), and at the same time, I'm a 100% Black Metaler with great interests in topics within both nationalism and black metal. People may do whatever they want anyway. If they wanna mix politics into black metal… be my guests!

What of the flood of bands that has begun… do you see this style of music becoming a trend?

Black Metal has certainly become a trend, that's for sure. But 75% of the bands lately are a direct result of the media coverage in Norway the last year-and-a-half, so they will vanish after a while anyway. Anyway, if the "trend" continue to be as brutal as till now, I can't actually see anything wrong with it.

Are there any of these groups that you particularly like or hate? Whom of the young bands can you recommend from Norge these days?

*There are always bands I like more than others, but I'm not really into telling what bands I love and what bands I hate, but bands I can recommend from Norway nowadays are **Gehenna** (absolutely ultimate Norwegian metal), **Dimmu Borgir**, **Satyricon**, **Arcturus**, **Darkthrone**, and of course **Emperor**.*

It's apparent that death metal has been pushed aside for the time being as well… do you see Death metal as a dying art? Do you still enjoy a good Entombed or Morbid Angel track once in a while?

Yeah, but it doesn't surprise me that death metal has been pushed aside, because I realized way back in '89-'90 when the big death metal trend was coming, that death metal would slowly but surely suffocate itself, due to the inefficiency and non-productivity the bands gained (with some exceptions of course). All the bands ended up sounding the same. ***Entombed*** *did a good score with their "Left Hand Path" album and then all the Swedish bands wanted to have an* ***Entombed****-ish sound and recorded their albums in studio Sunlight in Sweden and at the same time we had these Bay Area death metal bands in USA like* ***Obituary***, ***Suffocation***, ***Cannibal Corpse*** *etc. etc.… Bands that totally lacked the atmosphere and musical differences in the music. I guess* ***Entombed*** *are OK once in a while, but* ***Morbid Angel*** *are great no matter what people say. Their "Abomination for Desolation","Altars of Madness" and "Thy Kingdom Come" demo are classics. Death metal is dying what so ever.*

With any luck Bathory will appear in these pages… tell me your thoughts on these "gods"…also what are some of your favorite albums currently?

Some people claim that ***Bathory*** *"wimped-out" after "Blood Fire Death" (some even claim that "Blood Fire Death") actually was proof that* ***Bathory*** *wimped out). Well, I couldn't disagree more.* ***Bathory*** *will always reign and I love their first four albums (the rest are good too, but the first four rules supreme). Anyway, some of my fave albums at the moment are* ***Sadistik Exekution*** *("We Are Death… Fukk You!"),* ***Satyricon*** *("The Shadowthrone"),* ***Darkthrone*** *("Transilvanian Hunger"),* ***Dark Funeral*** *(mini-LP),* ***Candlemass*** *("Epicus Doomicus Metalicus") and many more.*

I know you have a fascination with serial killers, W.W.II Nazi History, etc.…what is it that puts you in this misanthropic mindset and what interests you about these two topics?

It's not easy to explain what fascinates me so strongly about these two topics, it's alot of things actually. There is a psychological link with mass-murders and serial-killers because it's interesting to know what actually made these people commit the crimes they have and what social background they have etc. Besides, I love the gory details and pictures. Horror from reality is the best! I guess John Wayne Gacy, Henry Lee Lucas, Ed Kemper, Karl Panzram and Charles Manson are my faves…top 5 serial killers! World War II is really unique because never before has a nation decided to exterminate a specific type of human so fully and definite as the Germans did to the Jews. The "doctors" in the extermination and concentration camps did experiments which were "for the best for the human race" but it was of course nothing else than pure torture. They were sadist to the fullest extent! A lot of people (especially neo-nazis) claim that the holocaust never happened (if they admit it happened they can never find arguments that will defend such a doing), but they should read the book The Crematoriums in Auschwitz by Jean-Claude Pressac. It's an actual proof that the holocaust really happened. The book comes with some great photos of the crematoriums, the ovens, piles of gassed Jews…Auschwitz was brutal!

Also you are a student of certain occult sciences…maybe you could tell us a bit about your favorite topics in this department?

The occult means so much, but as for books and texts I study , I can mention especially the Lemegetton Clavicula Salomonis (Which Aleister Crowley later re-wrote). I have authentic xeroxes of the original grimoire that lays in a museum in London. It's supposed to be the original "Salomon's Key" (A. Crowley's version is not very well written). Besides that, I find a big interest in parapsychology and obscure and secret cults and orders. It's particularly interesting how everything is connected to each other (nazism, magic, secret orders, Nordic ritualistic magic and so on).

On a similar topic, there exists many anti-La Vey types in black metal today…a sort of monster created by Euronymous…do these people even know what they're talking about and what is your impression of Anton La Vey and his Church of Satan?

It's clear that Anton La Vey is a very intelligent and bright person, but his followers can be the same sheep as the ones who follow christianity or any other religion. I can remember Euronymous was vehemently against Anton LaVey and his Church of Satan, and I also know that many people are against LaVey after Euronymous uttered his hate for him. People should judge for themselves instead of only listening to other people (people are always blind sheep, aren't they? They always need someone to follow). Nevertheless, LaVey's philosophy has in my eyes nothing to do with Satanism. He's just an eccentric that wanna be a Satanist and do the "good old black mass." His satanism is just a reflection of the American dream (reach the top and have success). It's very superficial (as everything else in America).

Anything further you would like to add? A hail to your supporters?

I could hail to everyone that have supported me before and after my

arrest. Too many to mention of course, but they know who they are!

Ave, Bård, for answering this inquiry…I really appreciate it…final comments?

Not much, only that when people write me, avoid to send any material that consists of pictures, drawings etc., that can be considered as obscure or too brutal, as that only ends with confiscation by the prison (it gives them a reason to hassle me). Thanks for the interview Steve…nothing is eternal!

Bård G. Eithun
Ullersmo Landsfengsel
Box 2
2040 Kløfta
Norway

If and when you write to Bård, please enclose a few IRC's or U.S. $ to help with his postage... as a matter of fact, do so with each and every band or person in this magazine.....

Thou Art Lord

***THOU ART LORD** are one of the newer acts emerging from the isle of Greece, yet within a short time have already released two 7"s and their debut album on Unisound records. If you enjoy violent, fast black metal than this is the band for you. Vocalist Gothmog delves deeper into the roots of this act....*

Aye, now that the band has been signed by Unisound records of Greece I must ask if the band is that serious of a project or more of a part time thing? After all most of the members are busy with other prominent acts!

Is there any law that says that projects don't make LP's? Actually we are a project band cause all members are involved with other bands before ***Thou Art Lord****. We are doing that because we feel like doing it. We rehearse whenever we like just to get a solid result. Actually we don't have plenty of spare time.*

This new material seems to not be too concerned with atmosphere but rather a war-like sound (much as the new album by Aussies Bestial Warlust) . . . . Much in contrast to Necromantia and Rotting Christ which other members are also involved in. . . . Comments?

It depends on our mood of the moment. If we would feel that we had to work on a doomy basis we would do that. I don't know haw the next material is going to sound. We felt that we have to do more aggressive stuff with sorcerous/desecrating/straight-to-the-face lyrics and that we dig. Concerning ***Bestial Warlust*** *I'm fucking praising their new CD. The persons that were involved with the backing vocals are Mika of* ***Impaled Nazarene*** *and Gunther Theys of* ***Ancient Rites****. We are very satisfied with their co-operation cause we have been in contact with them for a long time. Gunther visits us very often, almost every two months, and Mika lived here in Greece about a year; it created a strong friendship between us.*

As for "Eosforos" . . . What can you tell us about it? I know it's to be released October, but little else. Are you pleased with the result?

We have a contract with Unisound for that picture LP/CD. "Eosforos" is a Hellenistic name of Lucifer, we wanted to name it in Hellenistic language as a tribute to our ancestors and Ancient Greek culture. I'm satisfied with the whole result of it, as long as our bassist Magus Wampyr Daoloth (also in ***Necromantia****) was involved with the sound production was a guarantee for us.*

As for the lyrics . . . what do you cite as your main inspiration for these, Gothmog? They all deal with the dark paths of our existence but can you state any specific topics which you delve on this one?

Our lyrics deal with sorcery, desecration, war, satanic topics, occult experience. All these inspirations comes from our own beliefs and opinions on these matters. It's a flight in the forbidden dimensions of the earth. The dark hidden caves of Blackened pits, the mystic forces of nature.

You really seemed to explode into the scene, releasing a demo and two 7" 's within a years time. . . . Is the band going full bore? And how about performances? What is the perfect Thou Art Lord show consist of? Are there many chances for live shows in Greece?

I don't think the band is going full bore cause within a year we sold over 700 copies of our demo, about 3,000 of our first 7" ep and our split with ***Ancient Rites*** *has sold about 1,000 - 2,000 copies. The first press of each 7" ep was sold out within two months. The response of the fans was amazing. As for live performances we haven't had the chance yet to play live here in Greece, neither to play abroad. The perfect* ***Thou Art Lord*** *live show consists of lots of smoke, candles, inverted crosses, burning torches. This is the show that we want to have on stage.*

I know that satanism and its "practice" is the one outlawed "religion" in Greece, yet several individuals dare to be outspoken in their musical art. . . . What problems have arisen from this, Gothmog? And how can people dare label dedicated individuals as "false"?

This far we have had no problems about being Satanists from the society. I don't give a shit what other people said about us. I really don't care. If I was moral I wouldn't be a Satanist.

Also it seems there is a bit of a conflict between members of the Greek brotherhood and the Norwegians, most likely arising from some of the Greeks affiliation with La Vey's Church of Satan. Why does <u>this</u> problem exist? What's your opinion on this and also the Norwegians' animosity towards LaVey - style Satanism? (After all you all seem to share the common influence of one J.R.R. Tolkien!)

Well, the conflict was between M.W. Daoloth and Grisnackh of ***Burzum****, so the best thing is to have thins question answered by him to have it first hand, so here it is:*

Daoloth: First of all it's Hellenic and not Greek. Greek is Roman not native. And actually there is no conflict between us and Norwegians. In the past me and Mr. Vikernes had exchanged some very angry, "heavy" letters concerning each other's views. He started insulting my band and I replied insulting him twice harder (not like some others, that lick his ass). I have letters from Mr. Vikernes (which you call "Wolf of the North") telling me: "I/m not a wolf. I'm a dog ready to follow my master's commands. You are the wolves". Strange isn't it? And now this man claims to be an individualist and elitist! (We're his master) I don't blame or judge him. I don't give a shit actually. It's his life not mine. But I cannot trust or support a person who changes his views every year!?! Also this Anti-LaVey Norge thing seems to have changed after the current trials in Norway. Band members started to respect LaVey (even Vikernes claims that he co-operates with a C.O.S. ghetto in France). And why not? All their words and philosophies were strongly LaVey influenced but no one admits it! It's stupid to use other's words for yours and giving shit to the pioneer (and others before him). And there is no LaVey style Satanism. Only Satanism and no Satanism. LaVey actually didn't bring anything new. He just gathered the Satanic traditions and revealed the true essence of Satanism without "divine" shit "revelations". He is not my boss, master or anything like this. Just a man I respect for everything he did. He is very intelligent and Charismatic. Anyway I do not have anything special against Norwegian bands and I like their music a lot, but sometimes their attitude (not all of them) is stupid and moronic. Also this supposed conflict between B.M. bands must stop! We have common enemies. Let's not fight between us. Unity of purpose is needed to protect our beloved music. It's very up to you! If you don't want I'll walk my nocturnal path alone as I have for years. And I don't like much J.R.R. Tolkien (But Baron Blood loves it. He's more into pagan tales). I mean he made really great novels but sometimes they remind me of fairy tales. I prefer witching-occult novels with more "realistic" (in a way) scenarios, that use symbols and archetypes more effectively. As I said before I walk my Vampiric path alone for years now and I don't say big words or criticize anybody. I don't feel the need. I'm far above it.

Also, on the Norwegian topic. . . . Euronymous' murder last summer caused quite a stir in the metal scene. . . . Did this affect you at all? What can you say of the now-legendary Mayhem?

I was surprised by Euronymous' murder. I really liked his band and I know he was involved with the underground for over 10 years. If we have to kill each other and start a civil war in the Satanic hordes let's kill ourselves immediately. We don't want to make Christian mistakes. Actually I liked the new ***Mayhem*** *CD which I find is the best item among the waves of bands that come nowadays from Norway. Maybe Grisnackh realized that his band is losing ground from* ***Mayhem*** *so he murdered him.*

You are also involved with atmospheric, moody Mortify. . . who have, in contrast to Thou Art Lord, after a 3 year slumber released the second demo. . . Is Mortify

the other side of the coin for Thou Art Lord? How involved are you in the creative process?

That 3 year slumber was done because some members of **Mortify** *were doing their obligatory military service. We hadn't spare time to do a release earlier, also a lack of money stuck us back. No,* **Mortify** *is not the other side of* **Thou Art Lord**. *It's totally a different band. I'm not very involved in the creative process of previous process cause I joined the bands a few months before the release of the demo.*

The feeling projected by Mortify seems to be one of the classic mystical times. . . How important do you feel that culture of a band's homeland is in music? Greece has millennia-old culture vs. The USA, whose life has only existed for 200+ years. . . . Comments?

Mortify *has little, a very small, touch of Greece's history cause they live here. Everyone's homeland gives to him some influence, and so did* **Mortify.** *Greece's ancient lifestyle and pagan culture is amazing if you have studied it. There are so many hidden things that happened in Ancient Greece that Christianity destroyed and hid on purpose.*

On the same subject, do you find the landscape, culture, and ancient lifestyle of Greece to be prominent in your influences? What other cultures do you find to be of extreme interest to you?

Yes, it has to be that way as a tribute to your ancient ancestors and Godhood. Hecate, Hades, Kerberus, Zeus, Erictho, Pan, Medusa. Fine, excellent Greek ancient mythology. I'm fascinated by ancient Egypt, Sumerian Kingdoms, and Celtic tribes.

Future plans for Thou Art Lord and Mortify (an LP I hope!)???

For **Thou Art Lord** *we hope to find a good organizer bid for a tour someday across Europe, and release a 2nd CD. As for* **Mortify** *we search for a label to help us release a 7" ep or and LP.*

Ave, and thank you Gothmog for answering this interview! Last words and chants to the infernal hordes?

Thanks for this interesting interview. Keep up the great work with your Zine. Hope to meet you some day. Our merchandise is only available through Molon Lave Rec., Solomon 14-16, Athens 10683, Greece. Our CD "Eosforos" available from Unisound rec. After October 1994. NUNC PROTESTAS SATANAE VIVET.

P.O. Box 79022
172 02 Himittos
Athens
Greece

Columbia's TYPHON may be familiar to you... holding the torch of raw old-style black metal high. Drummer Bull Metal also fronts Warmaster Records... here he speaks of both. Read on...

Ave, Bull Metal... I'm a bit unfamiliar with the history behind Typhon... perhaps you could enlighten me?

Well, the band is "new" in a way, we started to play in 1993, I decided to form a black metal band, first..because that's the musical style that I love the most since the early days with **Venom, Celtic Frost, Hellhammer, Bathory** *and so many NWOBHM bands that were into satanic lyrics, such bands as* **Angelwitch, Pentagram,** *and some few more. When I left my former band called* **Masacre** *in 1992 I decided to finally play what I really wanted, that's how the band was born!* **Typhon** *is actually formed by Barzuth on vocals, Alejandro on guitars and Bull Metal on drums. This is the prime* **Typhon** *line up and no changes will ever happen!!!*

You also used to play in Masacre, correct? What became of that project and led to its down fall?

Well, about **Masacre**, *I formed the band in 1988, I wanted to play black metal because of my spiritual beliefs but all the other members in the band never wanted a satanic band so we started playing death metal but as Alex Oquendo,* **Masacre***'s vocalist were the one writing the lyrics so he started to write a very political lyrics and also against violence and so on I never liked that kind of lyrics so I just kept on playing the drums and promoting the band worldwide. After a while the band members started to have that "rock star" attitude, only interested in party, fame, money and all that crap so I started to feel the need to get out from there. So finally I made the choice and left the band, about remorse?? Well in some way because* **Masacre** *was what I made of it. It became the most popular band in Colombia and very well known worldwide. Even we recorded two LPs with the French label Osmose. But I knew that I was not happy within the band so I left. There is total hate and war between the members of the band and I, about what happened with that band?? Well they released a mlp this year, a total commercial crap. All the old fans are now against the band and they are now almost split up, even they have very serious internal problems into the band..they were never into making a serious work so that's why* **Masacre** *is dead now.*

Typhon, to me sound as if the fires of old Black thrash burn in your blood... What is your opinion of the old classic bands? Can today's acts compare to them?

Well, I'm trying to retain the old black, thrash bands..you know something like **Venom, Celtic, Hellhammer, Bathory**, *old* **Destruction** *and other godly bands from early 80's. About the new black metal bands, I think there are so many copy bands this days, so many of this bands are trying to copy bands like* **Mayhem, Bathory,** *even* **Darkthrone** *or others. I don't like that because there are so many shit out there. Maybe* **Typhon** *is not the most original band in the world but we are trying to keep the old flame burning, also we are totally against synthesizers or keyboards in* **Typhon***'s music we are only into guitars, bass, drums, and vocals. Just look to the ancient ones. Only this instruments were used. I hate that other instruments, just look what bands like* **Beherit** *or* **Burzum** *are doing now, pure alternative or avant-garde shit. I love old* **Beherit***!!! Their first LP rules!!! I can't compare the old gods to the new bands because there is not even one band of the new breed that can play such blasphemy music as the old gods. Maybe* **Typhon** *will do!!! Just wait to hear our debut Lp/cd.*

On a similar topic, which of today's bands do you finds most interesting? A lot of bands have started up over the past two or so years, any you particularly like or hate?

I love **Mayhem** *(gods), I used to like the second and third LPs by* **Darkthrone**, *the first* **Impaled Nazarene** *LP, all* **Necromantia**, **Varathron** *or* **Rotting Christ** *are great too, on the American side... I like some bands as* **Absu, Profanatica** *and some others. About hate.* **Burzum**, *I used to like the first* **Burzum** *LP, good one but when he (Count Grishnackh) betrayed Euronymous and started to play avant-garde shit I started to hate this shitty band.*

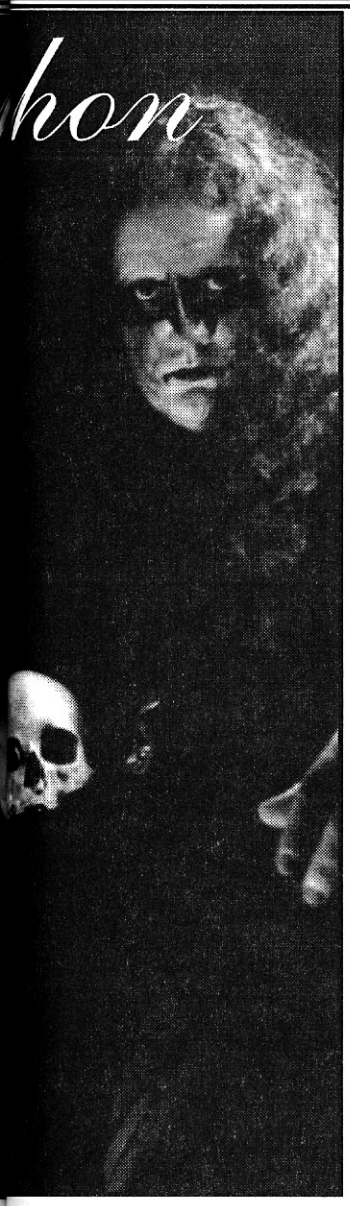
Let's speak a bit now about Typhon's lyrics...are there any particular themes or subjects they hover around? What inspires you to compose these?

About satanic matters, just what I feel, what I want, what I enjoy and what I hate. I like lyrics just direct, nasty, satanic, easy to understand. Just the way the old bands used to do. I have been in this type of music (metal) since 17 years ago, now I'm 29 years old and I'm still into this!!! So I like the old style instead of the new..of course I like the new stile of black metal but in the writing camp I have seen that all the bands are trying to write the most intricate lyrics just to show how studied

they are or how much knowledge they have in the satanic matters or even worse..they try to prove something they are not!!!! So that's why I love the ancient style of writing, easy and direct lyrics in **Typhon** *I write all the lyrics.*

I assume you are satanic as that is the technical definition of "black metal"...what drew you to the left hand path? Do you have any problems with this in Columbia which is a prominently catholic state (if I remember correctly)?

I have been interested in satanism since I was 17 years old, it was almost 12 years ago, I just wanted total freedom, also because I have been always interested in all obscure stuff, movies, books, paintings and so on, so it just led me to the satanic practice. But just now with **Typhon** *I'm free to speak about all this things and I'm free to do what I*



want. Well, I have not had problems to be a Satanist in Colombia so it is ok but to be honest I don't give a fuck if someone don't like me for my satanic beliefs, also in Colombia there is freedom of cults. As a funny thing, my home is in front of a catholic church and the priest knows about my satanic beliefs and every time he see me on the street he even walk to the other side of the street just to avoid my presence.

What are your impression of two of the masters; Aleister Crowley and Anton LaVey? Do their works have any impression on yours?

I have read some books by LaVey and Crowley, I think they are great philosophers and satanic leaders, but the only thing I don't like from both of them is the use of drugs, I like to have total control of myself, I don't need drugs or any other kind of stimulants to reach a high spiritual state. But apart of this I really appreciate the writings of this two great guys!!!!

As far as an "anti-LaVey" thinker; Euronymous is a key example. His murder last year shocked the metal underground… Do you view his passing as a loss…?

I was a very close friend of Euronymous for more than five years (by letter of course), the only thing in which we were very opposites was in the anti LaVey feelings of him. About his murder I think it was a high loss, he was aching!!! I had a very high respect for him and also let me tell you something, he was always only into the old style of black metal, just take a look at the "Mysteriis Dom Sathanas" LP by **Mayhem**…brutal stuff!!! Not a shitty LP like the last **Burzum** or **Beherit** LPs. He always knew what he wanted and I respect him for that, also almost all the Norwegian Black metal bands are that ...black metal for Euronymous' influences. I'm sure that the Norwegian scene would never be what it is now without Euronymous influence, I think it was definitely a very high loss

There is word also that Hellhammer (Mayhem's drummer) and other from the "Deathcrush" lineup, have plans to reform the band. What do you think of this?

I think **Mayhem** should be laid to rest, this band without Euronymous or Dead is nothing. I only hope that Hellhammer will reconsider that idea..it would be a disaster to reform the band.

You also run Warmaster Records, tell us a little bit about this….

The label started just after I left **Masacre**, I decided to do it because in Colombia there was not a label into metal. And also because this was something I wanted to do since a long time ago. About forthcoming releases...a split LP/cd featuring **Abigail** from Japan and **Funeral Winds** from Holland, also full length LP/cd with **Mutiialtion** from France, **Bewitched** from Chile, **Typhon** from Colombia and other great stuff in the future!!!

What element s do you look for in a band which may or may not interest you?

Just the feeling of the music as well as the look of the band. I don't like the sweat pants, short pants, or that skateboard attitude from almost all the new bands. Also I want brutal music with very extreme lyrics and ideals. That's what I like from a band.

Which bands do you wish you could release an album for? What is your all-time dream signing, and why?

My dream band to be signed on Warmaster?? Well there are few, **Venom**, **Hellhammer**, **Bathory** or **Mayhem**!!!!! These bands are gods and if I was a label owner in the old days I would definitely signed those bands!! They rule!!!

You also run a major radio show in south America… tell us how a band might go about being played on the program?

If a band wants to be broadcasted in my show just send the promo stuff, the band or label will get airplay lists in return. also I work with a TV show specialized in metal. So if there's a band with video send it now!!! Or video traders are very welcomed

Where do you hope to see Typhon in five years?

Just making LPs, we will never play live! We will just make LPs to the people who really loves black metal in the old vein!

Anything further you wish to add?

Just that I hope that all the people reading this interview will write to me, please support my band **Typhon** or my label, we are one of the few real underground labels out there..so to keep up the work we need your support! As for **Typhon**, we are just for the lovers of old styled black metal..the true ones! We are not a fucking trend band, time will tell!!!!! Thanks a lot my friend for this cool interview, I only hope that my questions are not boring and please remember to send a free copy!!! Also keep up the great work!!!! See you in hell!!

Mauricio Montoya
A.A. 056642
Medellin
Columbia

…Place in the Northern Sky

1980's Early Part

Fenriz's Nocturno Culto and Satyricon form Darkthrone

1990's Early Part

Demonaz Doom Occulta and Grieg Gardmakh form Immortal

1991's Early Part

Dead (from Mayhem) killed himself allegedly cutting wrists on April the murder being accidentally expected. Abbath and Demonaz Doom Occulta form Immortal and Grieg Gardmakh, Varg Vikernes Incarcerated are expected (Norway).

1992's Early Part

The Nineteen Kirke (Norway) is torched on May 6th, the Fantoft Kirke (Norway) is torched. On August 10th, Euronymous is stabbed to death. On August 21st the Holmenkollen Kapell (Norway) is torched. On September 1st, the Skjold Kirke (Norway) is torched. On September 13th the Åkebu Kirke (Norway) is torched. On October 31st, the Rakkestad Kirke (Norway) is torched. A corpse is expected missing. On December 23rd, the Lamdal Kirke (Norway) is torched. On December 25th, the Sarpsborg Kirke (Norway) is torched. A person is injured dead.

1993's Early Part

Grieg Gardmakh is charged with two count of arson in January. The Gothenburg Kirke (Sweden) is torched. Grieg Gardmakh is charged with third count of arson and suspected of one count of murder. Not released pending trial. On August 18th, Euronymous is stabbed to death. On August 20th, Grieg Gardmakh is charged with one count murder and three counts of arson. Faust (from Emperor) is charged with one count of murder, one count of arson and one count of incarceration. He is prosecuted.

1994's Early Part

Grieg Gardmakh is charged with a fourth and fifth count of arson and second count of burglary and incarceration. He is prosecuted. Faust is released from psychiatric prison in February. Samoth (from Emperor) is charged with one count of arson. He is prosecuted. On March 13th, the Fantoft Kirke (Norway) is torched. On March 25th, the Forsand Kirke (Norway) is torched. Incarcerations are expected (England) for Varg. Grieg Gardmakh is sentenced to sixteen years in prison. On June 9th, the Revin Kirke (Norway) is torched. Grieg Gardmakh and Faust are the second and third respectively in prosecutions. Neither Euronymous' Mord Fatal Tat Cover Darkthrone's Transilvanian Hunger are directly dedicated.

Pre Viking Words (from an unpublished manuscript) Blood Fire and Death 1988 (Hvergelmir's Records, 1994) (Reissue)

Ulver.....bergtatt

***ULVER**...with all of the loads of shitty bands emerging from the scene these days it is VERY refreshing to hear such a brilliant one as these Norwegians. Magnificent melodic music bringing forth grandeous visions and melancholic emotions...I can't say enough positive things about this band...you are going to have to purchase the mini-LP on HEAD NOT FOUND to find out how superior this act is..... if you discover one band through this issue ULVER should be that band...*

Garm, hello, how are things at the moment?

. . . Sitting here in the deepening autumn dusk listening to the drizzle deprave my sensitivity . . . I'm in a delicate mood thanx!

In our letters you speak of the nature of Noregr in great admiration. . . . What is it which you admire about the landscapes of your land?

The native Norwegian soil remains to this day nature's unspoiled realm. She is the source that moves me deeply and enlarges my frame of mind. In the depth of her villain forests stillness reigns as it did a thousand years ago. Basically she emphasizes my figurative ways of reflecting, my dark appetite and me yearnings. There is nothing that can measure with a long survey through her dimness during lonely nights, nor give me a greater peace of mind. One could say that she and her conspirators (the subterranean) awaken my sense of belonging.

You speak of the "elite" who have a monopoly on this grandeur as in opposition to the normal plastic way of thought [of the average person]". . . please expand on this. . . .

*None have a direct monopoly on such a grandeur, but it's magnificence is obviously not deeply rooted in each and all's mental faculties. What I said was that we, as the first ones focusing on the dark, superstitious sides of Norwegian folklore, have a kind of monopoly on the theme . . . It is quite annoying to see that trallworship is growing into a new trend here in Norway, as **Ulver** were the ones who started to write consistently on the basis of those exceedingly old natural phenomenon. Even at that time it was a subject that had dominated my life for several years. . .*

Interesting also is your incorporation of traditional Norse "folklore" in your compositions. What is it about the old tales which sparks your imagination so? Do you believe them to be fantasy or more of a reality?

The epic poetry and folk tales/legends are many-sided. For many, they have had their day and are therefore nothing but memories of the past. . . . Others, on the contrary, believe that they have obtained ocular proof for the existence of these fabulous characters and the mythical world that embraces them. Relating to Garm, they are for real. . . . They do not only spark my imagination. They are still present. . . . However, my imaginative mentality obviously fortifies it. . . . It is my belief that I in my roving life loneliness often see things on the other side.

As for cultural Norse "mythology" . . . do you find any truths to the spiritual paths your ancestors walked a millennia ago?

*Yes, I see veracity in many parts of my origin. I'm not too skilled yet, but I've recently started the studies necessary to interpret the rune stones and the magic symbolism they cover. Regarding my forefathers, I can illustrate an example. . . . They often made future prophecies out of what was concealed behind the different changes in enormous clouds, right? This because they had faith in the Clerk of the weather. The point of resemblance between our forefathers and Garm is that we both seek a truth to identify with, independent of scientifically established facts (as required today). Following ones willpower, intuition and instincts. The way they had their superstition safe and sound is highly admirable. . . . Garm brings this question to a conclusion by quoting **Mayhem**'s very notable ex-vocalist Dead's lyrics. Written for the track "Pagan Years" 2nd verse: " . . . Less numbered as they were, Their lives so primitive and pagan, Superstitions were a part of the life, So unprotected in the dark nights . . . "*

I believe that many aspects of "our" urban and westernized (Americanized?) society disrupt the true way of thinking . . . the way one feels when sitting upon a cliff overlooking the sea or traveling through a forested valley . . . a sort of tranquillity. Comments?

Now that was a rhetorical question. . . . Yes, Garm experiences ways of reflecting more adjacent when finding himself in a ravishing territory remarkable for the beauty of its scenery. The emotions that come into being during such moments are very vulnerable facing the wrong surroundings, so I do not think I have to make a secret of the fact that I get detrimentally affected by the urbanized "hustle and bustle". I believe a town life undoubtedly prevents individual development of genuine and spiritual stability, but that is my world of thoughts. . . The ultimate would be if my thoughts could conquer the boundary lines of time and cosmos. By the way, pleasant to see that you and I think the same of the manners. . . . Hand-to-hand against a collective structured machinist society?

You describe Ulver as musical camouflage to escape onto a true Nordic world . . . interesting. I notice that you draw many elements from other genres than only "metal" . . . what are some of your musical influences?

That is simply a mode of expression. A person with a mind consisting

only of metal and toothed wheels is not likely to comprehend what I am saying, but nevermind. . . . Unfortunately I do not know of **Ulver**'s direct musical influences as they are nothing we are consciously aware of. I enjoy listening to evocative music within ambient techno darkness, folk music, prog. Rock and dark wave symphonies, industrial/machine abominations, monotonous and depressive synth tones etc. **Coil** is a project which by all means justify musical agony. . . . I'm also a great admirer of classical music, so I guess we get tolerably influenced by this whether we like it or not. However, everything is relative. I'd like to think that we draw the best of our inspiration from our wanderings and nightly visions. We often go out during the late hours to get musically and artistically affected.

Tell me of the name Ulver . . . I know it means wolves in Norse but does it have any sort of special significance to you? Do wolves draw out inner thoughts in your mind and others in the "pack"?

Ulver is not in the singular manifest, but in pluralis! Wolves is basically our self-esteem, and the name emphasizes the lycanthropic spirit in our fraternity. Wolves play a prominent role in old Norwegian myths and conceptions, and thus are strongly attached to the night where our souls have their resort. The answer is yes. . . .

Let us talk a bit about the Norwegian and Scandinavian scene . . . over the past few years a multitude of bands have sprung up. . . . What sets Ulver apart from these hordes? What is your impression of this whole "heathen" phenomena? Who else stands out in your opinion?

On a similar subject, "heathenism" is prevalent in this scene, yet I don't think 4 of 5 so called "heathens" actually know what they are talking about . . . to you what is pure "heathendom"?

I used to be part of the "scene", but little by little I found out that the whole thing just didn't appeal to me anymore. "Sad" to see that black metal people of today aren't the greatest individualists ever, nor the most mature if I may say so. . . . The growth of "heathenism" is one of the results. Marionettes make trends, and as stated earlier, when things are not truly rooted in ones mental faculties it will not get us anywhere. As I was very displeased with the current situation I did as my other band members had already done before me. I withdrew. . . . Now I live in solitude and only socialize with my own members, those involved in **Arcturus** (which is my second band), and a minority of others (mostly people outside of the black metal milieu). . .

The heathen gods all appeared on earth in human shape before they died and became worshiped an Gods or Goddesses. They were kings and combat heroes who exercised their sovereignty upon the soil of Svithjod. They were/are somehow very earthbound, and represented the strong, wise and haughty aspects of man. I bow to the almighty Odin for his wide range of wisdom and the high skills he held in magic. This he had mainly gotten from the runes and old songs they once used to call "galder". . . . I bow also to the other heathen gods. Especially Loke, for hiss very scheming initiatives to overthrow the leadership, and his daughter, Hel. She who rules the Norse realm of the dead, Helheim, and she who is Garm's superior. Their essence is within me. . . . I've studied quite closely the Norse mythological literary relics and skaldic poems and lays, and it all moves me deeply because it treats my origins and my roots. I'm not t all unaffected. However, I'd think of it as ideologically impure to take myself for a heathen in the archetypal form. You know, there was a certain master from ancient Viking ages who looked at the sun, pointed at it and said: "There is our God." Our heathen ancestors were neither dark-minded nor brutal the way naive black metal guys obviously want to think they were. The fact is that most of them wanted peace and harmony more than anything else, even though that may sound very paradoxical.

Garm is partial to the most sinister, superstitious and cold elements that have dominated Norwegian folklore until long after the Christians invaded our country. Superstitions stood very strong throughout the Middle Ages, and even to this day it still exists in the outskirts of Norway. If one wants to stamp me, one will have to call me a Satanist. By this I want to emphasize that I am a deist. . . . I believe in a dark and truly all descending power that benefacts my darkest desires, and who is represented in the five pointed gray star carven. A dark entity that my life in conditioned by. A force outside the other side, if you comprehend. Lord of the little ones. . . . His figure have also been distinctive in old Norwegian folk-tales. In elder days one had several different designations for the personified evil i.e. "Moerskemaktene" (Tykje, Inkubus, Svartpil, hinnannen etc.). Most people in the days of old peasantry had made a clear picture of how they had thought he looked like, and these conceptions do not differ much from the symbols representing him in the eastern parts of the world. People/bands from Norway who hold an intimate understanding of what they do and that are worth mentioning are* **Mayhem** *(rip?),* **Emperor** *(even though Samoth and I have been quarreling more than once about trivialities . . .),* **Burzum, Enslaved, Mysticum, Gehenna, Strid,** *and* **Aghast.** *. . . I know there are also some quite allright newcomers out there, but it's too early to say anything.*

Aye, I see you support the "Never stop the Madness" campaign. . . . Do you support the use of some drugs and psychedelics for expansion of consciousness? Have these elements played a role in Ulver's compositions?

As I've also said in **Slayer** 'zine **Ulver** supports the use of hard drugs because they are an efficacious remedy to remove human rubbish who have not the ability to control general everyday problems. The music we perform is composed in sobriety. However, we do not consistently keep aloof from drugs when used as a resource to achieve results in for example magic. . . . Our guitarist Aismal often uses to inhale some strange stuff while commencing on his fortune telling tarot cards or other studies that require serious exercise of thought. The others are more reserved. . . .

And now to a question I hoped to avoid. . . . Euronymous' death surprised a lot of us. . . . How did it affect you and how will you remember him? What of Hellhammer's thoughts to reform Mayhem?

I respected Euronymous highly for who he was, but I am not in any way personally affected by his demise. He was an important organizer of things, and a lot of things collapsed as a result of his passing away. As things were evolving between Euronymous and Varg it all had to get into a brawl sooner or later. I pay homage to the genius-side of Varg, but I choose to ignore the absent-minded and childish anti-Euronymous thrusts.

As for the Mayhem reunion, I agree with the majority. It is not a good idea. For obvious reasons Mr. Hellhammer feels sort of slighted.

"Bergtatt" is soon to be released on Head not Found . . . in comparison to "Vargnatt" how can you describe this MCD? Are you pleased with the material?

It is not possible to compare our "Bergtatt" material with the "Vargnatt" promotion tape. "Bergtatt" is a musical description of the inviolable laws of nature. Our music brings to mind a country and an age when superstitions are still alive in peoples minds, and where the deep shadowy forests are inhabited by Noecks, Huldras and Trolls, creatures of the Norwegian soil. . . . Right now we are all very enthusiastic as we are entering the studio to start recording next weekend (today is the 28th day - 10th month Anno 1994 ev.) "Bergtatt" is expected to end up as a troisk masterpiece overflowing with sad, melancholic, longing harmonies and emotions, a dirge from the profundity of lone Norwegian tarns and forests. . . .

And what of the lyrical side of "Bergtatt" . . . ? Which concept's doors do you open and what paths do you travel upon this upcoming release?

"Bergtatt" means 'Spirited off Into the Mountain' and refers to an old Norwegian superstition: a belief that young maidens can be abducted by the little people of the underworld to live in their halls inside the mountains. I've been writing a lot throughout this dark autumn and the literary side of things is nearly finished now. The opus will have the form of a fairy-tale, each song serving as an individual chapter to the story. The main character is a young maid servant who experiences how it feels to be lead astray between the mighty spruce and pine trees of the troll forest while trudging through the snow on her way home from service. Step by step I try to set poetic and old-fashioned words to what she perceives as the lone figure becomes aware of the physical presence of the subterranean. . . . I describe they way they conduct her into their arms in a dark and ravishing way with their binding power and their covetousness. It is all finished off with the deprivation of her pure, innocent and virtuous soul. Consequently she gets "Spirited off Into the Mountain." All in all it is a continuous context of her litanies that end in despair. For the sake of holding it totally spell-binding it is written in Norwegian. English-speaking persons will therefore have to pick up a dictionary to comprehend. . . .

Where do you see Ulver in 5 years?

I have no idea. . . . I think we might have slowed down a bit as Haavard and I are for the time being deeply engaged in creating songs for our album "Kveldssanger" (Evening songs) which is planned to be a very calm album consisting only of classical/acoustic guitars and part-singing. . . .

As Ovl. Svithjod once said "there is both good and evil within mankind" . . . what do you think of such a statement? Is there an accurate thought within? What about these "I'm so evil, praise Satan, I'm cool now" kids. . . . Do you feel pity for them?

He is allowed to issue statements exactly as he wants as long as he gives an objective account for his statement. I am just as tired with "Kill for Satan" chatterboxes as he is, but one has to give people a fair chance before brushing them all aside as bluffs. I'm not convinced that this Ovl. Svithjod guy actually is that informed and deeply read as he so evidently tries to give people the impression of. . . . Good and evil are both words deriving from Christianity, so I must say I find it a bit odd that a thoroughbred heathen like Ovl. Svithjod takes them in his mouth at all. To me evil is a word representing the affirmation of disorder. The denial of responsibility in the social world. The dark side of human psyche. . . .

I think the Ovl. Svithjod was a little too inaccurate and subjective in his statement, but I respect his opinion as long as he respects mine. . . . I guess he tried to simplify the fact that we are all human. I mean, if I fall completely for a seductive girl I wouldn't associate that with evil. It is rather a matter of where you have your refuge. . . . I've stopped moaning about the last mentioned.

Ragnarok

Dark winds caress the cold Norse lands. A blast as of a thousand whirlwinds striking the moss-grown mountainsides awaken the howls of all beasts. A winter which seemed eternal had swept the lands two times three seasons. The fimbul weather, they whisper, had left the earth entombed in a layer of ice, and the sun, they say, had been eaten by wolves. And the doom, the end, the twilight of the gods, was yet to come....

For this truly was Ragnarok, the fate of the gods, the end of all known life. And in the long-houses in the northern countries they sat, huddled up against the blue flames which no longer could withstand the growling winds and the wailing storm, and they told over and over, the legends which could no longer delve the howl of the starving wolves. And the trolls, and the giants, and the dark elves and the nøkks were closer than ever, for every creature was shook by that doom which was to come.

On his mighty throne, a one-eyed emperor called the allfather, the god of the gallows, Odin, saw all this misery and pure suffering. He too was awaiting his end, but he, the almighty, suffered perhaps worst of all because he knew his doom, how he would die in the battle which was to come. With Odin was his kind, the Æsir, the gods of war and poetry, and the Vanir, the gods of fertility and agriculture. In his hall, Valhall, awaited an army of Undead warriors, who had never rested a day since their earthly death. The Einherjers, trained by Odin himself to fight the dark forces and picked from battles on earth by the Valkyries, the battle maidens of Odin, awaited a battle in which every single one of them would perish and enough blood to fill all oceans would be spilt.

And the land shook as the horn blasts split the cliffs and stirred the ocean into whirlpools of foam and black walls of waves struck the lands with might. The turmoil of the land moved giant boulders and undid all bonds ever made to the earth. And hatred sprung from the broken chains. Hatred in the shape of beasts, released by events prophesied in the web of fate by the Norns, freed from their aged links they rose: The grim warge called Fenriz and his giant-spawned father Loke. Through a crack in the earth emerged the abysmal queen Hel, empress of death, and the hell-hound, Garm. With them from Niflheim came the dragon Nidhogg. And from the depths of the raging ocean slithered the Jormundgard serpent with its poisonous venom concealed in deadly fangs. The waves created by the movement of Jormundgard's whipping movements sets afloat Nagilfar (a ship made from the nails of dead men) which was boarded by Loke and his army from Muspell. From the south appeared the flame-giant Surtr with his devastating fires, and Hrym, the frost giant, came out of the northern fogs to aid the evil forces in the battle against the gods.

For the holocaust never was to end until all life was still with the sleep of death, and all beasts and gods had departed from their immortal coil. The Earth, withered and dead, was to be left empty....

For the plain of Vigrid they headed, all the Norse gods and their armies. In a turbulent ride which could hardly be heard over the violent concerto of the dying earth they crossed Bifrost, the rainbowbridge, and it collapsed under the immense weight. And on the plains awaited armies so dark and so cold and truly fatal, its evil was created to kill.... To kill every single heathen god which had crossed the bridge, and who could never return to the halls of Odin. And in a rage they fought, unto the death, the allfather and his Einherjers and sons, against the evil progeny who were to cleanse the world of life. And on the deserted plains of Vigrid they died, Odin by the claws of Fenriz as the wolf himself died from the sword bite of the allfather. And Odin's son Thor pierced the Jormundgard serpent through with his blade, only to drown in the rivers of venom. Frey was deadened by the flame giant Surtr's flaming sword, and Heimdall lost his conquest against Loke. Garm slayed Tyr, and then, when as many beasts as gods were slayed, Odin's son Vidar saw his father's dead body, and with superhuman strength ripped Fenriz's raggy, wolven head straight off. Then a stillness like no other raged over the battle-field called Vigrid, only the echo of war remained and the air was thick with the scent of the blood of a battalion, and the ground was covered with corpses. Here they lay, beasts and gods, side by side, and their hatred for each other was never to reign again. Then the dying Surtr saw his chance, and with a mighty blow he set the world ablaze. The fiery flames burned everything left on the earth, the waters heated up in a feverent boil and even the roots of Yggdrasil were licked with the flaming dragon tongues. The earth was left scarred and blackened, offset on its path in the sky by the immense changes brought onto it by the battles among its inhabitants. Death was total.

But, as if total was not relative, a miracle flushed the world. The miracle of life. For there is always life after death, new life, rebirth. The earth healed and only scars told of its once charred body: A woman, Lif, and a man, Lifthrasir, came forth from Mimir's sacred forests where they had hid during the disasters. The human race was again rebuilt by these two people and the earth restored from ruin. Of the godly progeny there remained Odin's sons Vidar and Vali, and Thor's two sons Modi and Magni, who also had saved their father's mastrous weapon: the hammer Mjøllnir. The once dead god of goodness and perfection, Balder, reappeared with his dark twin, Hodur. The six young gods were to be the ancestors of the gods of a new world. And standing together there at the battle-field of Vigrid, they discovered that above them there was yet the highest of all heavens, Gimly, and that here virtuous people and gods had survived in unity. Thus the earth was supplied with the new life of these virtuous people, and the fate of that generation had not yet been prophesied as I write this, but after the cleansing that Ragnarok truly provided for the world; destroyed the old and brought forth the new, young and fresh, there is always a chance that history will repeat itself....

***Epilogue:** Today the threat of a sudden end for our generation of humans and the destruction of the earth is only too real as nuclear weapons are falling into the hands of ignorant men who have lost all respect for the earth through the belief in a higher, super-natural power (much different than the super-but-human gods of the north who set examples of conduct to the people instead of ruling them), and the world-wide acceptance of the weak and destructive christian morals, have the power in their bare hands to set off missiles powerful enough to blow up the earth twenty times over (this nearly happened three times in the 1960s when UFO's sighted over the USSR and USA almost were mistaken for enemy missiles). Ragnarok, as described by the Norsemen over a thousand years ago, was to be much like what we know a nuclear bomb explosion to be today. Figuring that the only way these people knew of the end would be through sights, or visions through the third eye, of the future; and the only way of describing what they saw and explaining the reasons behind these disasters, were their gods. They therefore incorporated Ragnarok into their religion, and luckily the tales still live today. If we can't see what ignorant men in the middle east can do with the nuclear arms they have bought from the former Soviet Union, then maybe we can see what Surtr, Hrym, and Jormundgard were prophesied to do to the Norse gods, and become the Einherjers and Valkyries from the old tales and once more take control. For if we can't stop them completely, then we can prepare for battle, and assure the earth a new generation of strong, heatlien, virtuous people....*

-Runhild Gammelsæter

Aghast

courtesy of Nacht....

Aghast *became reality with the union of two black magic witches in the winter of 93/94.* **Aghast** *consist of Nacht, a proud Norwegian witch, and the artist behind Taakeferd and other paintings. Und Nebel, who came from London where she was involved with the magic scene and is in a Satanic order. She also appeared on England's black metal band* **Cradle of Filth***'s first album, doing some vocals. We transferred our visions of atmosphere, our occult experiences, our longings, and our poems into what now is* **Aghast***.*

What kinds of visions the listener gets is individual, but through the lyrics you get quite a good idea of the scenarios. We want those who listen to **Aghast** *not only to be taken somewhere, but to become surrounded by the atmospheres, to make their souls feel what it is about. What* **Aghast** *is also trying to achieve is to make sounds that attract the invisible forces, by creating a special mood in peoples minds and souls.*

We do not stray from anything, we use what is appropriate for the visions we want to create. On the next album there will probably be more four string, and also some six string, but used in a more experimental way than usual. Nacht is originally a guitarist, but has come to preferring synthesizers. Nebel has played the violin for a long time, she also play the recorder (flute).

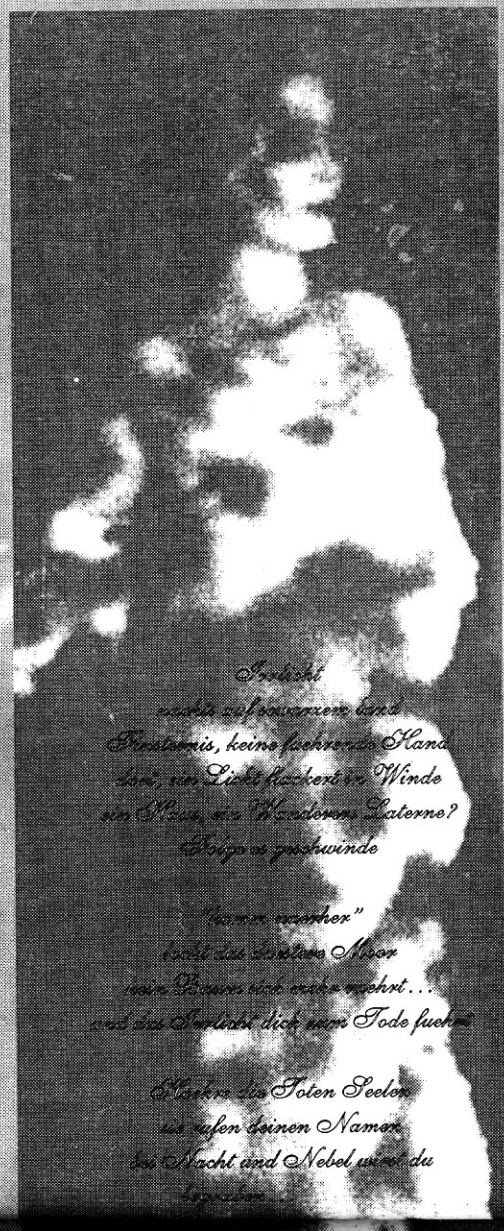
What brought us into witchcraft? We have always been from the Dark Side. One has to be born a magician. It is natural for us to do witchcrafting. When it comes to "wicca" I have to say they are not dealing with occultism, but Greenpeace actions through mind power, they are optimistic, and has misunderstood the strongest powers of witchcraft and rituals. But as I cannot live without the nature, I think their projects of healing it is positive, if my mind was positive and healing force I would do my share. As magicians the "wiccans" are worthless. Anybody can be a white-light wiccan, not just "anybody" can deal with Black Magic, which is the only way of magic. But I respect them for what they do anyway. Nacht herself deals with both, I know herbs, but I also know my curses. But most of the herb I gather are poisonous.

It is positive that Black Metal now is a "trend." In a couple of years, when the trend is over, we will see who are worthy and true. In the "old days" new Black metal acts had to prove themselves, it took some time to become accepted. There were some control then. I preferred it that way. 95% of the new acts are a shame for the scene.

Aghast *has only gotten positive response, at the moment all labels we have contacted have been interested. But we have now decided to sign with Cold Meat Industry. All of our Norse brethren that has heard* **Aghast** *has given us many compliments.*

The Taakeferd picture was already finished when Fenris asked me for permission to use it on the album. I was living with Fenris three wisdom gaining years. I have known the Black metal scene in Norway for quite a few years, that is how other bands have known I'm an artist. And so they have simply asked me to paint something for them.

The inspiration [for art] comes from different sources, sometimes as ideas, sometimes in trance, or when listening to dark music, after having



Irrlicht
weiße wolkenweiten Land
Finsternis, keine suchende Hand
Land, nur Licht Rascheln im Winde
wer Mann, wer Wanderers Laterne?
Morgens geschwinde

"warmer regenherz"
Kühle die brennen Moor
neuen Bäumen neue ernte mehrt...
und das Sonnlicht dich zum Tode suchen

Öffnen die Toten Seelen
uns rufen deinen Namen
die Nacht und Nebel wirst du
begrüßen

"supernatural" experiences, after rituals, and seeing the results of rituals, after reading poetry/philosophy, sometimes after philosophizing or writing poetry, sometimes when I am really down, or when I almost go insane, and of course after seeing awesome natural scenarios and feeling/experiencing the forces in the dark forests of our beautiful kingdom.

I have "always" been an artist. I started drawing with pencils before I could speak, drawing spirals, inwards (What a psychiatrist would make of that I do not know). At thirteen I started using oil, which to me is the best way of painting, there is something magical about it. Visual art gives one the possibility to describe things without words. To put a feeling, an idea, or a special atmosphere down, which cannot be described by words. It is also possible to twist reality, and to create worlds which only exists in that one painting.

There is actually not any artist in particular who directly has influenced my art. I get more inspired by singular pieces of art with dark themes. Some modern art is also of inspiration. One of those who have most of my admiration when it comes to artists is the Norsemen Odd Nerdrum. I also admire many of the old masters like Goya, Goethe, Rembrandt etc. I also find H.R. Giger's art works very tasteful.

For many years I have thought about opening up a designer bureau that can deal with dark arts. There are so many bands (for example) nowadays that has to deal with designers that have no understanding what dark souls want. I think there is a great need for somebody professional that knows what it is all about. My goal is to have something like this ready in about one years time. Until then I will of course be available for doing some work, but this will be at the standards of an artist, not a professional designer. To commission a piece from me you will have to write me, tell me what you want, if you are interested in a special painting, if you have any ideas for one, and of course you will have to be able to pay for it. When it comes to already finished paintings I will in a couple of months time have the possibility to send out photos with a price list. And anybody who is interested in buying Taakeferd (framed) can write, I will sell it to the highest bidder!

I follow my own path, I do not trust any of the modern mystics enough to concentrate on one of their limited paths. As magic and occultism has been a trend the last century I believe a lot of what has been written is mere bullshit. Of course most of them have some interesting ideas, and some of them have discovered some truth,. But alas, the ways of darkness are so complex that one mystic alone cannot possibly cover it all. Therefore I seek wisdom from as many sources I can. I am convinced that the greatest mystics of history have never been discovered. It is also a pity that the most famous of mystics have, in my eyes, always failed in some way or another to prove themselves serious.

I will say Odin must be the greatest mystic ever, and how can mystics of flesh and blood be compared to a god!

My path is constantly leading my soul further into the abyss, closer to the other side, and further away from reality as the society sees it. Through visuals, divinations etc. I find greater wisdom and understanding, gaining in strength, not only practicing destructive rituals, but also trying to help other dark souls to succeed on their ways. This is unfortunately too big a topic to explain deeply in an interview, but some philosophers have been of great inspiration, also a lot of the decadence writers. For both Nacht und Nebel writers like Lovecraft, De Soede, Baudelaire, Poe, and most of all Comte l'Autereamont and his infamous "Maldoror." But mostly it is my own experiences, what I see/experience I believe, but even then I doubt, the books I read usually confirms my own thoughts and philosophies, and sometimes explain what we are surrounded by. Many writers calms my mind when I see that others too have been believing what I believe. On the path to great wisdom (dark witchcraft) lies much confusion and doubt, and also the constant threat of going mad.

Anton LaVey's horde is good enough for material strugglers, for strong humans who wants to materialize their dreams, but they lack understanding of the beyond. I guess LaVeyans get good courses in psychology, their rituals being based upon seeking help from your higher/stronger self, to be gods of flesh and blood. And that is positive enough. As satan worshippers they have a good image outwards, they are not evil, only selfish. It is better that people gather around the Dark Lord than the feeble god of jewish chrisitians, but to what I have discovered there are few souls dark enough to be called satanists. Just to invert the ethics of the christian church is not satan worshipping, but jehova denial. Nebel has been working with Church of Satan groups. She thinks A.S. LaVey is a very decent and wise man.

***Awe** [Nacht's private ambient project] was born when I discovered the magical world of synthesizers in 91/92. I discovered a medium beyond painting. With sounds I could create pictures to complicated to paint, some of my paintings were given musical pieces, like Taakeferd, and some of my symphonies became paintings. With most of the **Awe** material I have been improvising, in a trance like state, being inside the vision. And of course, as with everything I create, it is made in the dark hours of night. **Awe** is developing to be more than just atmospheric music, but I might find a new name for the more aggressive material. **Awe** will sooner or later be available on C.M., flyers will be spread around.*

*In alphabetical order... **Arcturus, Burzum, Dimmu Borgir, Darkthrone, Emperor, Enslaved, Gorgoroth, Hades, Immortal, Mysticum, Ragnarok, Satyricon, Thou Shalt Suffer, Thule, Ulver, Wheel**... Our beloved kingdom is crowded with interesting bands!*

We are trapped inside human bodies to gain wisdom, to become superior beings. The older the soul the greater the wisdom.

There is more between heaven and earth than our small minds will ever have the courage to imagine. Only the darkest of souls have power and strength enough to seek the true depths of the underworld, hill to those few. And may the gods protect those who tries!

P.O. Box 53
3812 Akkerhaugen
Telemark
Norway

Bathory ...the return...

...all of the readers of this magazine should be very familiar with this individual. After a few years in sabbatical Quorthon has returned to give us yet another BATHORY album..."Requiem" once again is a turning point for the band [illegible] likely to cause as much [illegible]sy as "Hammerheart" [illegible] when it wa[illegible]e caught up with [illegible] extreme mele[illegible]X to give you this very revealing look into this legendary acts past, and future as well as the current situation in the scene. Let Quorthon conjure...

Hail Quorthon...how are you this eve?

I'm fine though I've just had some sort of shit going on with my throat it goes with the season...cold winds and icy winds now a days you know...otherwise I'm fine.

After a few years rest, you have decided to release another album as mighty Bathory... it is great to see you continue the epos. What can you tell us about this new album?

*Yeah, it s been a while, right ?! Well, what can I tell you about the new album...It was recorded in the beginning of July this Year...I believe it took about three days to lay down the guitars,bass and drums.Then there was a whole month of holidays which prevented us from keeping on recording or laying down the vocals etc. etc. Then in the beginning of September we could finally do the rest of the shit. It 'll be out the second week of October I believe...and then what can I tell you about it?.. Well it's sure as hell not based on a bunch of songs that wound up at around fifteen minutes and where each and everyone of them begins with an intro for about a minute and a half and then after a decade or two of monotone pile of shit it all ends as if it was the end of the world and not just a song. In other words it is nothing close to what we have done lately ("Blood Fire Death", "Hammerheart", or "Twilight of the Gods"). Yet it is far away from that speedy noise we produced back in the mid and early '80s. All I know is that there is not a word on Satan or Odin, there are no fuck-ups in the playing, it is by far the fastest and most brutal stuff that I have ever written and it is the best played bunch of tracks that you have ever heard **Bathory** do. But really what the album is really like can only the fans themselves say. I am partial and the stuff and it is too close in time for me have had any distance to it.*

Does the album "Reqiem", have any relation to the never released album in 1987? For that matter, why was that album , "Fire and Ice" never released?

*The album recorded this July entitled "Requiem" has no relation other than the title itself with the session we did in '89-'90 that carried the same title as working-title . From this "never-released" session of '89- '90 only one song has been released "Crawl to your Cross" which eventually ended up on "Jubileum Vol. I " . The rest of the material from that session (or sessions really) is really not good enough and just a bunch of super-duper-ultra-extra-fast noise and screams with no real motive or clue.We were just having fun letting off alot of steam in the process. I really doubt that this material will ever be released ...to be honest I shouldn't have told the press about this or the other so called "not-released" album (I'll get to that one later on) coz after that went out in the press a never ending flow of fan mail has requested these two "albums " to be released tomorrow practically. So the only thing that the new album and that "never released" album have in common is its title. Then to the other so called "never released" album of **Bathory**. You mention an album "done" in '87 entitled "Fire and Ice" .We recorded 24 songs for a double-album entitled "Blood on Ice" in (I'm not quite sure about the exact date I'm afraid) the break between "Blood Fire Death ' and "Hammerheart" .This whole session turned out really great.It was a sort of a theme album with a warped version of the original Conan-story and our version of the Nordic Mythology. Although the songs were really great and we really loved the idea of a double album (remember that CD' s were not household stuff here in Europe in those days for bands in the league where **Bathory** played) somewhere down the line we realized that some of our fans might not have the money to buy a double album and wound up listening to second or even third generation MC-copies.Secondly, we understood that the complicated Swedish history and the whole Viking sound being really a white spot on the metal-map these days would be rather difficult for alot of our fans into the band coz of the satanic stuff and enormous speed and shit .That's why "Blood on Ice" was placed on ice (sic). But... and I don't think many know this..."Valhalla" a song from "Blood on Ice" . was recorded once again and released on "Hammerheart" . The thing is the same here as with that not-released session mentioned earlier...I really don't think that any of the material from "Blood on Ice" will be released. But if I would change my mind in the future and decide to release it anyway I would need to really tell people in a sort of "letter" in the CD that the album was recorded years ago and the whole story behind it...people would probably only get **Manowar** in their thoughts when hearing it anyway and that would not be too good I guess. I can tell one more thing...when we did "Blood on Ice" we were signed to Music for Nations in the U.K. and they had another act called **Onslaught** ...they found out that our album was planned to be titled "Blood on Ice" and they had no title for their new album.Some weeks later I find out that their new album is titled "Blood Upon Ice" and of course we couldn 't release our album bearing a similar name being on the same label and all... by the way...we left that label very soon after that coz they were very small in Europe although they were the biggest metal label in the U.K. in those days.*

*I should round this off by just saying that eventually **Onslaught** changed their title to something else anyway. . .*

Musically, your style has changed quite a bit over the years as well... where does this new album stand, musically? Any chance you will ever put out another release in the vein of "The Return.." or "Under the Sign.."?

*When we did "The Return..." and "Under the Sign of the Black Mark" we were really terrible musicians and we worked in a private studio down a basement in a southern suburb to Stockholm equipped with only a 12-track desk and a small FX-rack from the end of the 60's.When our music became more and more complex it sometimes could be as much as three or four different sounds on one track , you could have a horse running by in the beginning of a song then a lead guitar in the middle...still on the same track...and so finally perhaps a short slab of acoustic guitar at the very end or fade out still on the same track.You can imagine what this meant when trying to mix a whole song containing not only the basic instruments but also 12-harmonies mixed down onto one track, horses, wind and thunder churchbells and acoustic guitars effect, drums and guitar solo's etc etc...I tell you we went through hell at times...especially when we did "Blood Fire Death" and "Hammerheart" both recorded in this small studio (Heavenshore) where all our albums except for "The Return..." . "Twilight of the Gods" and "Requiem" were done.So to really answer your question when we can produce another album like "The Return.."or "Under the sign..." I think we are not talking the mood or sound of these two albums or the kind of music that we did all those years ago...we are talking really about growth and becoming better musicians and all that lot. If you really mean brutal shit and pace till you balls break you ll have it all on this new album coz it is the fastest stuff we have ever done.The whole reason why we did this album at all was this...I went out in Europe to do some promo for my solo-album "Album". when I met all these folks from mags, radio and TV I realized that they were really sad that there might not be another **Bathory** album .They all kept on talking about how big **Bathory** really was to alot of people and how much we had ment to a whole generation of bands around the world...and this all made me wonder if I really shouldn't just go back home after having done all the promo-stuff and really try to sit down with my electric guitar and produce some brutal stuff. I though that I was really unable to to this having disclosed myself off from the street-beat for allmost nine years listening to classical music only. But it was actually easy and within two weeks I had written all the material for this new album. To get back to your question really...yes, we have changed over the years and the reason for that is musical freedom as a musician and an artist you really need that kind of freedom to expand and challenge yourself writing new music all the time...finding new sides of yourself and broaden your horizons...I know it really sounds standard and dull but It's the truth.... when I was a kid myself and a fan I hated bands that went on in the press like this and then changing from one album to another...but now I know different...I hope that answers your question...*

Over the past decade your style has evolved (theme wise) from the satanic into an Asatru/Odinnist?Viking-pride style... does this continue onward on "Requiem" or do they change direction once again? What can you tell us of some of the topics you delve into this time around?

Well, it is the same thing here as with the music...so see above...but to add I can say that lyrics really means alot and much more than the music tells you where you are at. I have never been ashamed of any of the stuff that we have done musically or lyrically... but these days mags tend to pay much more attention to the lyrics than they used to five or ten years ago...but then of course it was all satanic in those days anyway. It seems like there s a whole god damn lexicon out there that describes a bands lyric-identity which is approaching the whole issue the wrong way...not that lyrics shouldn't be important...they are...But to label a band purely satanic occult odinistic or what the fuck ever is really wrong. I am not the right person to say that I hate it when bands or people are labeled this or that coz ten years ago I was asked in the very first interview I did for a German magazine what type of metal we played (coz back then in the US in the end of '84 or so a new thing - thrash metal - was founded and black metal was already out there) and being a cocky little son of a bitch I simply answered that we played Death Metal coz most of our songs dealt with death...little did I know that when bands in Europe started to diverse a little from what was known as pure black metal mags started to label these as death metal acts...so I should really stretch my damn neck a bit and feel proud of having

contributed with at least something for the history...Regarding the new album it touches nowhere on the satanic topics or Odinism or any of that shit, although I have to confess that I still haven't left the bit of criticizing Christianity as much as I can. But most of the time the new album deals with death in various ways...post-mortem, war, murder, suicide, genocide and the death of values of man etc. etc.

On a similar topic, I wonder if you ever took satanism seriously, back in those days, or was it more simply for the sensation of it all? Has your opinion on the subject changed over the years or did the interest just fade?

Did I really take satanism for real at any one time I ? Sure I did.... in '82-'85 I was so deep down into that shit I even joined a witchcraft-circle here in Stockholm (I lied about my age when joining) and we had great satanic Sabbaths I tell you. Sex and stuff (but I never ever tried the drugs). But once I got to the point where I actually read the whole bible to get some more meat on the bones when learning more about the enemy I realized that Satan and satanism was a product of christianity and that if I found christianity a super mega bluff then satanism had to be it too. The reason why I turned to satanism in the first place was not just trying to be rebellious but simply coz my whole person was and still is so consumed with hatred towards the christian history, belief and theory. Some time in '86 I turned my inner eyes and ears towards what people today call Odinism or Asatro or whatever even though these labels were yet to be invented I guess...at least within the metal horizons pre-christian Sweden fascinated me and gave me a new way to criticize christianity that was much more true than butt-fucking masked women on an altar in a dimmed basement somewhere and then spray the word Satan in ten feet letters all over a public wall down town at night or something. Has my opinion on satanism changed over the years? Well I now a days see it as just a way to tickle peoples imagination but I still wouldn't use it as an idea for a song for the future..I've done all that already and haven't starved or felt ashamed for ever having done it.

Which brings me to the next subject, Odinnism. Did this subject hit home in a more powerful way? Like a re-forged fire in your blood?

I tell you...this whole re-born nationalism we see in Sweden now a days is a result of us picking up on the Scandinavian mythology and pre-christian Sweden all those years ago on "Blood Fire Death" and "Hammerheart" (Sweden has been "christian" for almost one thousand one hundred years now). This has caused us some problems coz the papers being all and all out in favor of all the inter-racial marriages and births happening here in Sweden since like eight or ten years now are sure always to dig deep into anything that might have influenced youngsters to learn how to sing our national hymn and so on claiming this particularly source of inspiration being all and all out pro-nazi

etc. etc. But this was never our intention in the first place all those years ago...we just wanted to do something original. While all these German industrial - area bands kept on singing about that damn wall and pollution and US bay - area acts tried to copy **Slayer** or **Metallica** the best way they could we wanted to be really first to do something nobody else dared to or could get away with doing. Being a Swedish act it was just natural I guess once we had taken the step to jump off that satanic band wagon (not meaning we had jumped on that damn thing to begin with....I'm led to believe that we were there creating all that shit together with acts like **Venom**, **Hellhammer** and **Slayer** I guess..).

What is Odinnism to you? Do you consider it to be just an interest or is it something greater?

It is certainly nothing "far greater"...what you call Odinism was just simply a different topic for the lyrics and not a sign of a different sort of awareness or national pride...well a little maybe. It means nothing to me I'm afraid to say other than that they are great stories although no more true than the christian shit.

Texts such as Snorre's Edda's hold much in the form of logical and practical philosophy... as well as spiritual. Do you draw inspiration from such texts? What else inspires you, as far as Bathory is concerned, and besides Bathory?

The Snorre Edda which is the very oldest written script of Swedish or Nordic history preserved, hasn't meant anything to me at all I guess...simply because it is as close to a modern Swede as say the story about Excalibur and Merlin would be to you (thinking by your name that you are British by blood). But from an academic point of view it is sure an interesting piece of document as is the Excalibur and Merlin stories, historically at least. When I wrote the lyrics for a **Bathory** song no matter from what **Bathory** era what did inspire me could have been a painting, a film, a book I might have read or simply just something I forced out of myself when being late with the lyrics for the studio. Very few times I can recall having been especially influenced by a certain specific thing or what ever in the sense that I could say that this particularly song w as inspired by this particularly book or film or painting. I remember when reading very much about King Karl XII (Swedish king from the age of 16 or something to his death at 35 or something - see how deep my historic pride has sunk details such as these into my memory ha ha ha ha) who is a great hero among Swedish nationalists etc. coz he took on both the Norwegians the Danes the Poles the Germans the French and the Russians (and with them the Lithuanians) all at the same time in the years 1703-1718 or something...and he beat them all up until losing to the Russians deep into the Russian marshlands in 1709 and being assassinated by a anonymous gun man in a trench in Norway around 1718 or whenever that happened.Anyway...from reading about him intensively for a couple of months it inspired me to write a song called "Marching Off to War" which surely was recorded but never released. And the story I guess could go on...but you get my point right !?

It seems, from my point of view, that there has been a rekindling of traditional Swedish and Scandinavian pride and lifestyle in the youth? Do you see this or am I hallucinating?

No, you're absolutely right. But here in Sweden although not at such a paranoid level as in Germany, nationalism is a very hot issue. Everything that has got anything to do with Sweden or Swedish history is a bit taboo over here...don t ask me why. I can give you a very up to date example of what sort of taboo I'm talking about here...When the Swedish national team went on to win the bronze-medals in the world football cup 1994 (soccer to you suckers) in the USA recently (which was a great shock to all of us coz we would have been happy if we would have reached the quarter-finals or something) and the players got back home the first question (when referring to the hundreds of thousands of Swedes filling the streets and town squares in Stockholm and in any other major city or town of Sweden shouting happy and waving their Swedish flags crazy from joy) was if all the Africans and Arabians and south-Americans in Sweden would not be upset about all this Sweden-sweden-sweden and if is was really such a healthy thing going so blue and yellow (our national colors mind you) coz internationally it might be taken for racism. But underground if that's the light way to

describe it (and above too it seems these days) no one gives a shit and kicks the shit out of anyone claiming you to be a nazi or psycho when you say or show off that you are proud of either your nationality or history or whatever...

You've seen it all, from the beginning of black metal and thrash to its peak, then death metal set in during the late '80s… currently, black metal is making a resurgence in the metal scene, and most of these bands (and many in this magazine) claim Bathory as a major influence. What do you think about this? Does it surprise you?

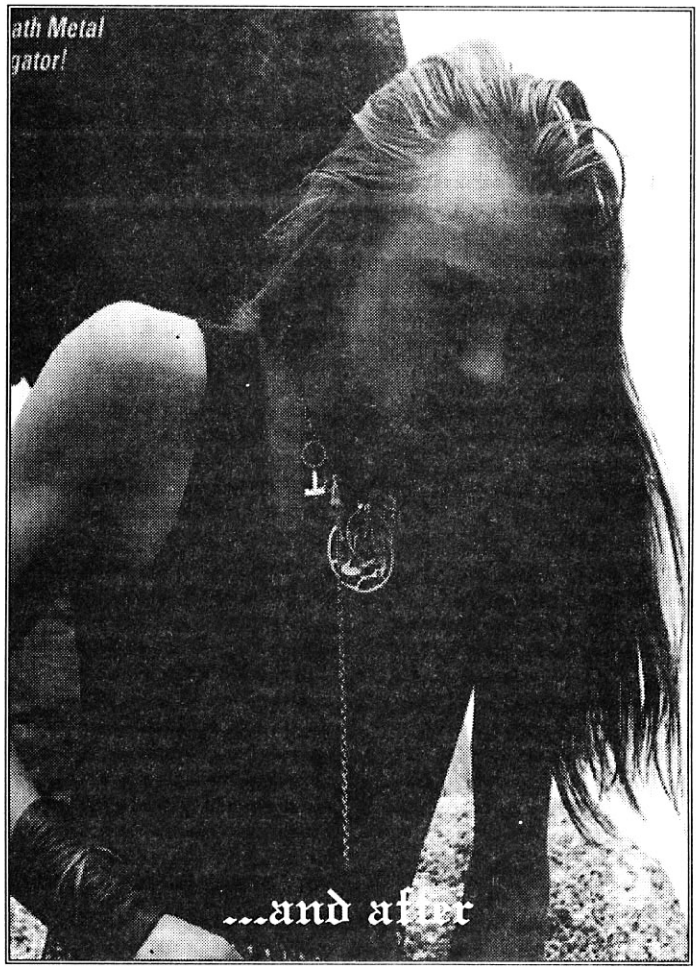
It doesn't surprise me and shouldn't really. But somewhere deep down inside of me I try to keep all from of thinking in that way as far away from me as possible. I know that after our two first albums came out (or even as early as after the first one) bands started to use long long intros and effects on their demos and albums. I know of bands taking their name from a **Bathory** song title or just a word or a phrase from a lyric (like there are bands called **Equimanthorn** and **Hammerheart** and there are magazines called **Under the sign**... and **Twilight** magazine etc. etc.). All this should really matter me in a way and it does...it sure does but I am not too sure whether I am that well informed of anything that goes on out there or in the underground. Sure what is known as black metal is bound to come back and sure have recently...new generations of metal fans will pick up their guitars and find inspiration from either be it Metallica coz of their great commercial success or a "underground" type of band regardless if this band has been around for ages like Bathory or even Hellhammer or not. If a guy in a band or a band on a whole claim Bathory to be his or their greatest influence you are of course very happy and proud in a sense I guess Bathory could never have "survived" all these years without concerts, tours and what have you if it wouldn't have been for the sort of cult-status that we received during '84- '85. It is from this sort of cult- status that we have been able to always be there fresh and known to everybody although (I am very positive) not always liked by everybody.

I am sure you have heard stories of the Norwegians' exploits… things seem to be a lot more serious these days when it comes to black metal and living the lifestyle… do you agree? Did you ever think things would come this far?

I am aware of what's happened or is happening in Norway within their rather local and limited black metal scene. But I wouldn't pay too much attention to that. What happened is something done by one or two kids and shouldn't be laid upon the shoulders of a whole metal genre or a generation of fans. I honestly don't mind that church-burning bit unless there isn't someone in there while the place goes up in flames. The only person living in that house anyway is god and burning the place down is a symbolic act of defiance and no more. But it is also a criminal act similar to what the christians did when coming to Scandinavia burning our holy houses down and destroying everything in sight that could remind the people of the north that they had a past before the cross etc. etc. Also we must not forget that behaving in such a way is very close to what muslim fanatics are doing in most countries around the world today it seems and in no way am I defending their actions.

On the same note, the church burnings in Norway were intended to drive out the christians and give the land back to the "Vikings"… what is your opinion of this and do you support it (at least in theory)?

No not even in theory am I supporting that. If that was their claim they are so brainless it's unbelievable. Just coz you burn down a church or two (or even burning them all down and killing everybody claiming to be christians - and you should remember that Norway is a very, very conservative country in reference to say Sweden or Denmark...you wouldn't believe how much is forbidden or taboo over there) you could never achieve a "viking-society" or whatever. We are no more Vikings than the folks in Zimbabwe. Viking is just a word to describe the people living in Sweden, Norway and Denmark about one thousand years ago. So much has changed and modern man couldn't live by the standard rules and laws and ideals of the "Vikings". To sum all that up I believe that these guys not only had a crush on Vikings but also had it up to their ears with satanism and neo-nazism and that their "pride" in their "viking blood" was just one of several ingredients in their own soup mixed with perhaps drugs and a troubled and suppressed childhood (wouldn't surprise me since we are in fact talking about Norway here). If any of these guys or anybody else have done similar things and have claimed Bathory to have been their main influence in doing so I can only say I am sorry and accept that all may not have it as easy as others to take reality for what it is and fantasy as a spice....



Are you in contact with any of these newer black metal bands? What do you think of them, musically and objectively?

I haven't heard anything of these bands at all I promise...but I have read of them whenever I get my hands on a magazine featuring metal acts and **Bathory** might be featured.

What about the efforts f the more pagan oriented groups such as Enslaved and Unleashed? To be taken seriously, or…?

All acts should be taken seriously as musicians but their lyrics perhaps shouldn't always be that much for the real thing although all acts regardless of origin, label or musical talent or whatever deserve the same bit of respect and treatment. I again have to say that I have heard nothing of the acts you mention here.

To me, Bathory has held a symphonic sort of feel over the past 2-3 albums…. I know you enjoy some classical composers, maybe you could talk about this interest?

It all started when I felt that too many acts were picking up on this black metal thing to be a part of something that was happening at the time while at roughly the same time bands that you followed as a fan (like **Motorhead** for instance) had changed beyond recognition. I had always loved Bethoven as a kid but didn't know anything about his work or classical music on a whole. From reading alot on a certain part of European history (you may know which but I prefer not to mention it openly) and a certain person in the eye of the storm of this specific time in European history I got in touch with Wagner in '85 roughly and I started to collect classical music on Lps CDs and taped literally hundreds of classical compositions on MC. Sure I have certain favorites. Besides Beethoven and Wagner both my "house gods" I enjoy the work of people like Anton Bruckner (his 8th symphony has influenced much of Bathory's music) Edward Elgar, Johann Sebastian Bach, Joseph Haydn, Franz Liszt, Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Jean Sibelius, Samuel Barber and even Aaron Copeland. All these men have written some of the best music in history of man but I shouldn't and couldn't just sit down and even try to give you one or two examples of what to actually listen to from these great minds. I used to listen to only classical music between '85 and up to last year but I have realized that even I can get too much and consequently I have cut down on my classical menu and listens now a days perhaps less than half an hour to only one or two special things.

Have you ever thought of composing, in a non-metal mindset, a symphony or some sort of operatic piece?

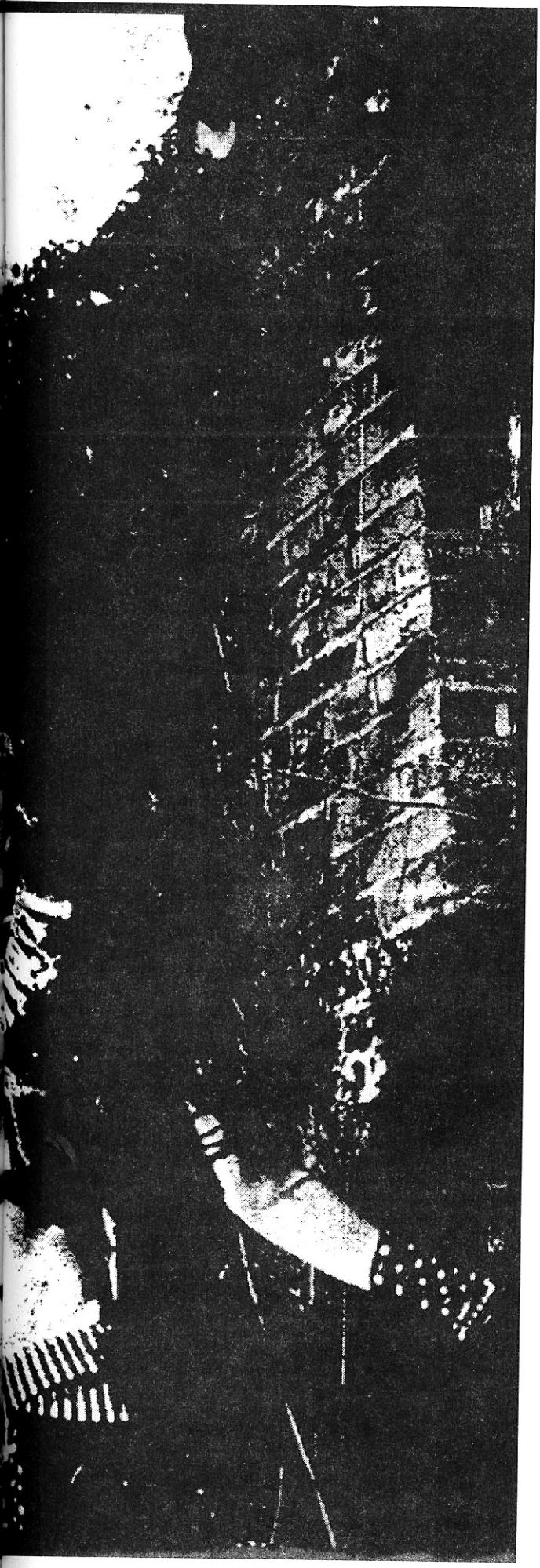
I bought a synthesizer some time ago and sat down many nights composing classical music...string quartets and stuff like that I have forgotten how to read and write music now a days but keep most of it on tape or in my mind. I have also written stories for operas.

One band who also dabbled with this was Celtic Frost with "Into the Pandemonium"... did this album have an effect on you when it came out? What did you consider of it then... and now?
Don't laugh now buddy but I never listened to and have still not heard that album although I know of it of course.

What about the other bands of the time... it seems that many of them (Destruction, Venom, Celtic Frost) changed their styles pretty incredibly over the years... was it a loss in your eyes (or ears)?
Regarding **Venom** they were great for a brief moment...and that was for about six months between hearing the album "Black Metal" for the first time sometime during April-May '83 up to the moment when you saw them in Kerrang! and read what they had to say and you saw their pictures. I had no opinion on **Hellhammer** coz I had only heard one single track by them before they changed name to **Celtic Frost** and changed overall I guess. I only know one thing though ...I hated **Celtic Frost** more than anything else on this planet and I still do. I met the guys in London when we stayed at the same hotel they were out on a British tour (which had been canceled the night before this happened due to the fact only 25% of the tickets being sold for the remaining shows) and I was doing promotion for "Hammerheart". They saw me sitting down there in the bar with a couple of journalists while yet a few others were waiting their turn...me always taking my time as always...and they would pass us by no one taking notice. Anyway I had to go up to my hotel room to get some stuff for a magazine (some photos or whatever) and on the way I passed the guys just before the elevator. I said:"Hi ye guys" and they nodded saying something like:"yeammmm" in reply. Of course they were aware of all the shit I had thrown their way in the press. I still hate them... **Destruction** was a band that never reached anything in terms of fame and sales figures to be reckoned with...they just sucked musically and typified a German industrial area act to me and many others they were just as much a great big laugh as I believe they think I was probably. Of course bands are bound to change from one album or one line-up to another...that's only natural and I think good in the long run. But since they never touched me in any sense I can't be fair and say their changes was either good or bad.

What does the future hold for you, as far as Bathory is concerned? It seems that you are anxious to "broaden your horizons" as was evident on you solo effort? What drove you to release this?
I really don't have any other plans for the next six months other than to complete the new material for the **Bathory** album in 1995 and I already have five written so far since we completed the mixing of the last one ("Requiem" due out in October). So in March or April I hope to be able to go into the studio once again for yet another even more brutal and powerful album. Of course I also hope to be able to get a job as soon as possible and find myself a little flat (apartment) in Stockholm. The feeling you need to broaden your mind comes and goes in waves and the reason for the solo album to be written recorded and released was that I needed to get back to rock and roll again. I had taken **Bathory** to a certain stage with songs winding up at around fifteen minutes and with this great symphonic sound to it which was really just painting myself and **Bathory** into a corner. Everything you wrote had to fit a certain pattern and sound. I was having no more ideas and felt I had covered all grounds to be covered with **Bathory**. Nothing more could be done. So I needed some time off from **Bathory** and had alot of people convincing me to start to think of a solo album since they realized that I wrote alot of music that sometimes didn't just fit within under the sort of **Bathory** umbrella.The solo album was written by me, played by me, mixed by me, produced by me and released for me only. I had no intention of quitting **Bathory** or trying to sell out or anything of that sort. I simply just needed to do rock and roll basically. I never had people believing it to be the future or to be a **Bathory** album and never used **Bathory**'s name or fame or whatever to promote the album but of course people would pay more attention to what you had done with **Bathory** than what you actually had just done by yourself.

Any chance of a tour? As far as timing is concerned currently would be perfect, especially in Europe. You could really cash in....
Alot of people say the same thing that I could make a million bucks literally if I would take **Bathory** out on the road right now. But I am not a performer and hate concerts...especially now a days when an audience seem to pay more attention to climbing up on stage and try to reach the nineteenth row by jumping like a bird shits in the air, fucking silly. No way I



am taking **Bathory** out on the road today or tomorrow.

You have played a few live shows (in Stockholm and N.Y.C.)… why the lack of this over the years? Describe a perfect Bathory performance to us unfortunates….

I didn't know we played Stockholm and New York....that was a complete surprise to me and I only formed the band and have remained the only original member since February 1983. Actually the reason why we never played here at home in Stockholm was the complete lack of places to play. There was no rock scene here at the time not until Europe had a hit or two and then everybody was gonna look like and sound like them over here which made it just about impossible to find suitable members for a band like **Bathory** whenever I needed a new bass player or drummer. Huge member problems, lack of a local rock scene and my fading interest in trying to get this shit on stage culminated sometime around the turn of '85-'86 so I decided (backed up by my own personal decision to make **Bathory** more elaborate in the studio) to skip that whole idea of taking this act onto a stage. Since then people have been trying to convince me to go on stage every damn week. Therefore I couldn't describe the perfect **Bathory** performance to you.

Is there anything that you have, or haven't done, with Bathory in the past which you regret now?? What one thing would you change now, looking back?

If I'd known then what I know today I would never have published any pictures of myself and I would never have done that video. I spent 25.000 SEK (about USD 5.000) out of my own pocket to pay for food for all involved the renting of horses, armor for the knights and robes for the pilgrims etc. etc.... the petrol and car fees and so on... if I had known that I wasn't gonna be able to see one second of the nineteen hours of film we shot for the video I would never have had people talking into doing that shit. I have never seen it and never will. But I managed to get back the original master copies from assorted video channels in Europe and managed to burn them. I don't think that there is anything more I would have done in a different way. Just small details such as paying more attention to singing a bit better and taking more time mixing the albums.

Where do you see yourself and Bathory in another 10 years?

Bathory won't be around in ten years from now...I can't tell you when the end will come...it could be possible that I decide to end it next month or in five years from now. Mind you I thought I was never gonna be able to write metal again after "Twilight..." and the fans will be the judges when they hear "Requiem" to decide whether I have or not. As for myself in ten years...I don t know...I hate living really and just live for every day. I have no plans for the future and just a few goals in life but when they are accomplished I really don't know what to do with my life.

OK, take your mind to a different setting… you are sitting in a bar and meet someone… things move along and you mention that you are a musician… they are clueless to this and ask about your band(s)? What do you say?

Let me tell you a real story to give you an example of how private I can be. I met this pussy (or girl if you like) and still after we had been going for a while I still hadn't told her anything about Bathory. But whenever we went shopping and passed the CD department and she went off to look at the stuff that interested her I'd be off checking how many **Bathory** CDs they had left since last time around. She'd know from my smile later on that I had been over there somewhere checking up on my bands CDs and she'd be really frustrated not knowing shit. I don't know if that answers your question but that is as close as I can come real life.

Anything further you'd like to add?

Just that... I wish that all the folks that has ever been into **Bathory** at some time during the eleven years we have been around have had patience with us changing so much and sounding so different from one album to another... once they began to like us we changed you know. Check out the new album and judge us from there. And also that everybody who's been around for all these years supporting us even if so just in their hearts cheers to you all mates!

Thank you for answering this inquiry… it is an honor and a privilege to feature you in these pages… HAIL! Any final words?

Well, what can I say… hope that you can use these answers and that you will enjoy the new album. Unfortunately there are no photos to send you at the moment… we haven't even thought of that… we reckoned that the album cover would do. We wanted to let the music do the talking this time.

666

Slayer Magazine...Metalion...anyone who's been into the scene for a while most likely has heard of this guy...he is one of the long standers in the underground, having started his magazine over ten years ago during the birth of the thrash, black, and death scenes. His magazine has featured almost all of the bands [whom have become much larger since] during their beginning stages...therefore I thought it would be interesting to hear what this guy has to say from the other side. Read on as the old man of the underground speaks of Slayer Mag', his label, Head Not Found, and church fires, among other things. Hails to you Metalion!!

Hello again, my brother. How are things in Sarpsborg at the moment?

It is as usual....Nothing more, nothing less...SARPSBORG is the usual hellhole! Nothing makes it different.... You must do something yourself to make things happen.! I fucking loathe the citizens of Sarpsborg. Other than that all is OK and I'm prepared to do your interview....

You are about to release your tenth issue of Slayer Magazine.... Quite an accomplishment. What can you tell us of this issue? Are you pleased with it?

Yes... As you read this SLAYER #10 is out ($8)! It took some time, but this UNHOLY RAG is out now! As you can see this is our jubilee issue so I thought I should make something special.... So it ended up having 84 pages.... About 35 interviews... (I mention some... **Bathory, Abruptum, Nifleheim, Ulver, Sad X, Mortiis, Mayhem, Aghast, Gehenna, Satyricon, Mysticum** etc..) It has a lot of other weird shit as well.... Of course I'm pleased with it!!!! I wouldn't release it if I was not pleased with it.... I'm also much more content with the bands in SLAYER #10! Some of the bands in SLAYER #8 and #9 should have been somewhere else... (FUCK OFF!). Other than that, people should make up their own minds what to think of this!

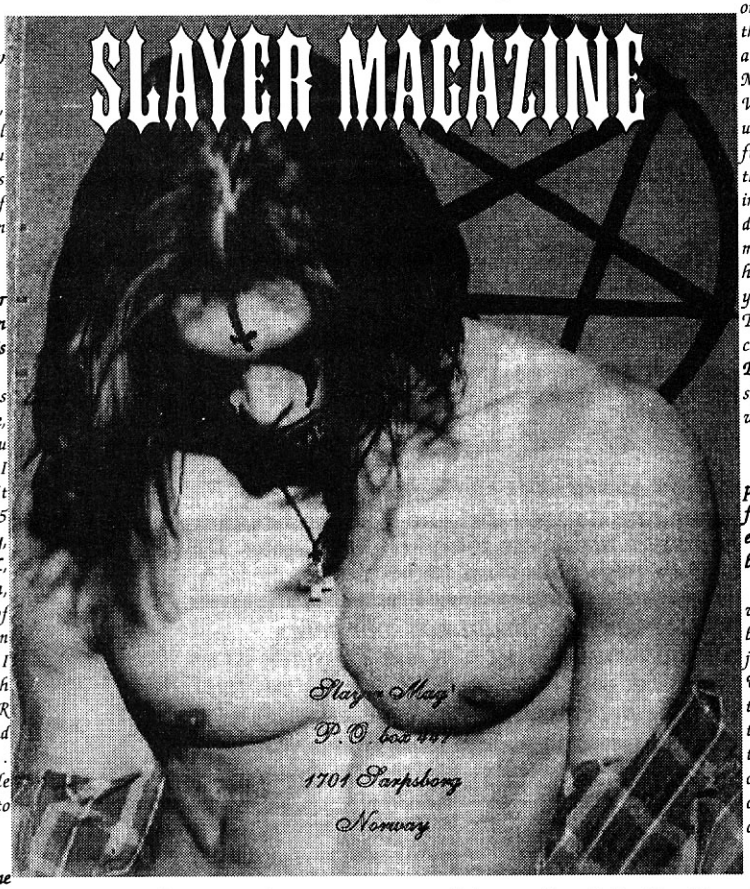
You've constantly produced one of the best underground metal mags in the world... what was your proudest moment concerning it? Your worst?

Thank you.... Feel free to flatter me more... HA HA HA! Well... my proudest memory... I don't know what it could be.... But one thing that sticks out is having the "The Deathcrush" MLP dedicated to me! That was a big thing!!! Worst.... Well, all these idiotic phone calls in '87 - '88 - '89 from a lot of tiresome people in SWEDEN.... I guess both answers has a certain reference to SLAYER 'ZINE as well.... So I hope you accept this answer.

I am curious... you've been in the scene since the beginning... how did you originally get into this style of music? Was it popular in your area at the time or were you a lone wolf?

The underground was meant for me. It is right I have almost been there since the start.... I was attracted to this music.... It was for me... Got hold of a Swedish tape trader who could supply me with my demands for extreme music.... It was no one around here who liked the same music. It was no one.... So it was not until '85 or so when I met the **Mayhem** guys I finally found someone with a similar taste in music.... But basically, I "ve always been a lone wolf.

On the same note, you've watched the scene develop and change over the years as well.... Which span of time do you think was metal's best moment? Which bands?



At first it was the European bands **Venom/Hellhammer**.... And then **Frost, Sodom, Destruction, Kreator** etc. And then it was the amazing '87 of the USA with **Necrovore, Morbid Angel, Incubus, Regurgitation.... And the first wave of Swedish bands (Nihilist/Dismember...).** And all of a sudden now it is Norway who has the best bands! **Emperor, Ulver, Mayhem, Arcturus**.... So it is like each time had it's band, all across the globe.... But for the most classic stuff we have to enter Europe and gods like **Frost, Bathory** etc.... But still classic bands are born! Look at your own local scene for instance.... Fuckin' **N.M.E.** is back and that is as amazing as anything else.... Some bands are born to be kings....

It's interesting to see today bands are drawing on their roots (technically, at least) incorporating sounds of the old gods (you know of whom I speak)... did this come as a surprise to you? Or did you see the re-emergence of black metal coming?

It is not exactly only in the Metal scene where people draw influences from greater times.... Everything goes around in circles.... Also it is easier to look back on great bands! Especially when you have the current state of things.... And of course - it is all them old great bands.... Of course I saw it coming! IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN!!!

Also, bands today play in the vein of Bathory, Venom, and Frost (and many do it as well or better than the originals) yet one band has been nearly ignored...Mercyful Fate...opinions on this and these kings?

Mercyful Fate! Also one of my faves for sure.... I think they have a kinda more like Metal audience and really don't attract the dark hordes in the same way as **Bathory** or **Frost**! **M.F.** is still going on and I find their current material more than will! Their "Time" CD is a classic.... So I reckon those masters will get the attention they deserve.... Also I suspect it is a tad harder to clone the Merciful ones than **Bathory**....

You also have been working hard on your label.... Head Not Found. Care to speak of how this label came about and what's in store for us?

The idea of starting a label is an old idea.... It just took some time.... The first idea was from '89 and a comp. LP of Swedish Death Metal, but it did not happen.... So the idea rested for some years.... But in '93 I thought I should try again... I got in touch with **Alastis** and we sorted out a deal for their LP in the summer of '92.... The LP was recorded then, but not released until March '93.... The main reason it took some time was because of the lack of money.... It sold OK but we really didn't make any cash on it.... (Mainly because of the vinyl edition!) But anyway, after that things happened.... Slowly, but it did happen.... We got a deal with Voices of Wonder concerning distro etc., so that was OK.... Our first release with them was the mini CD the **The 3rd and the Mortal**. That one is selling really well...Also out now is the CD of **Pazuzu** which is more in the ambient darkness vein.... And **Gehenna** MCD.... **Gehenna** refused to work with Voices so that CD will be released through us only.... That will also happen in the future where we release special editions through H.N.F. where Voices is NOT included! Like we will do will the Emperor demo on vinyl.... **Thorns** comp. CD. The most important release ever for us will however be the **Ulver** CD "Bergtatt"! Brace yourself for something VERY special.... TROLSK SORT METAL. Other bands you can expect from us is **Valhall, Paradisma, Black Lodge**.... We have no head so we can sign what the FUCK WE WANT.... And we do!!!!

You seem to have signed some pretty unique acts. I know how many fucking shit bands come and go...what elements do you look for when listening to a band which catches your interest?

You know, it is no special thing we go for.... It is just when you hear the band that you got the right feeling.... You just know it is right.... Like in the case of **Ulver** .... Even if their "Vargnatt" is not the ultimate you know that this is a band that will be HUGE...A band must be true to themselves.... But you can't really point out one thing you are looking for.... But of course I don't sign SHIT bands. Other labels can concentrate on that... HA HA!

How far do you plan to go with Head Not Found (and Slayer Mag for that matter)? What would you like to achieve with both projects?

About H.N.F. I don't know really.... It seems like '95 will be a busy year for us labelwise.... As we have a lot of releases planned.... So I don't know how far H.N.F. will go!!! I really don't know, but I hope I can get H.N.F. at a certain level and keep the releases going relatively steadily.... No stupid delays and shit like that. But we also need good bands to release.... But as growth goes, it has to be taken as it comes.... But I want to keep on going with this label even if the sales are not much at all.... About Slayer Mag. I pretty much have it where I want but it is always room for improvements.... But that is more on a personal level, improving with writing, interviews etc.... But it is not much I want to change about the 'zine.... It will always be here to pester all...HAH! Slayer Mag. is very much a personal thing.

What about other genres of music? I know you are into some e different things…. How do you feel about those people who refuse to listen to anything except metal (or even worse, black metal)? Any bands of which you are particularly fond of?

It is right that I listen to a lot of different stuff…. I think that it is good to get some variation. THERE ARE MANY SHADES OF DARKNESS…. Some stuff I enjoy out of the ordinary is ***Dead can Dance, Laibach, In Slaughter Natives, Current 93, Death in June, Munch, When, Diamanda Galas, Thule, Anglagård****…. A lot of stuff…. Anyone who can capture real darkness, depression, insanity…. Anyone like Nick Cave for instance…. About those people only into Black Metal. Well, I can understand that but soon enough they will find out there are other things to "life"…. I think this is a thing only concerning very young people! Right? And as I'm not a really young person any more (Ahummm!) I don't really have that problem…. But if people choose to be narrow minded…. Well, that is their "problem"…. There is much more darkness than in Black Metal…. Making a statement that you only like NORWEGIAN BLACK METAL is not smart…. But for some it is TRUTH!*

Now we shall move to a topic which you are all so familiar with… the Norwegian scene. At the moment it is at it's peak as far as it has ever been in metal…. Are you proud of this? Whom are some of your favorites in Norge?

Yes of course I'm VERY proud of the elite bands in Norway! It is really cool to see that all of a sudden Norway is the hot spot for metal…. My ultimate fave band now must be ***Emperor*** *(If you choose to look away from* ***Mayhem****!). But Norway spawned a great deal of god bands…. Like* ***Satyricon, Ulver, Gehenna, Arcturus, Enslaved****…. Also there are some not so known bands as* ***Kyist*** *which is really great…. Of course, there is loads of bullshit Black Metal bands as well…. I choose not to talk of them as this annoy me too much…. But there are bands who care more about their image than their music…. As far as I'm concerned those bands should ROT IN HEAVEN…*

What about the fact that a lot of these bands played "death metal" only a few years ago (or under a different name anyways) only to "evolve" their style? Why did this occur? Was Euronymous the main reason behind this? What do you think of the result?

Well, many of those bands ain't even old enough to have heard a proper death metal band! HAH!!! But you know, there is something called musical progression…. But since you brought up the matter of Euronymous. Euronymous did a lot of work to get some dignity back to death/black metal… And it did happen…. Euronymous took a lot of time to explain about valuable matters. So the early Black Metal scene in Norway with ***Darkthrone, Enslaved, Immortal, Burzum, Emperor****…. Was VERY much inspired by Euronymous …that's what I mean…. So the roots of Norwegian Black Metal are founded by Euronymous!!! Now there are many bands who don't even know who Euronymous was…Oh well….*

It seems that in Norway black metal is not just a style of music but also a lifestyle to many: with all the trappings attached, quite different than in the old days, eh? Or is it?

I think that the people into the worldwide scene of Black metal much see it as a lifestyle…. It is no feeble joke…. Maybe some of the older bands didn't take this lifestyle so serious! But it should be! I think that the happening in Norway is evidence that people today take this serious! It is a good thing to take it serious! It also reflects the music I think! But take a band like ***N.M.E*** *- they must have been fairly serious…. People must be serious about their MUSIC!*

Hmmm…how about the topic of churchburning? What is your opinion on the subject? What about the reasoning behind it - to drive the christians out of Norway (at least that's what I'm let to believe)? An unaccomplishable goal?

You had to bring this up, huh? I don't mind to talk about it so…HA HA! I must say burning churches is a beautiful sight! I have nothing against it… I think it is good it happens…It has been a while since last burnings in Norway, but I'm sure it will happen soon again! About the reasoning behind it…. I don't think there are any ways that the christians are driven out of Norway, but… It is a nice thought! As I see it, when churches burn it creates FEAR. And that is good. FEAR to the normal people in Norway…. So they see that there are forces in Norway which should not be messed around with… BLOOD - FIRE-DEATH!

Over the past year or so, several unique events have occurred regarding musicians' trouble with police, sentencing to prison terms, etc…. have all of these events split up the scene…or do you think that the result is opposite?

Well, as I live the life of a hermit (Almost!) I'm not the right person to ask that! But, I get along with most of the bands who get along with each other! I get along with the people I wish to and the other way around I assume…. There might be some rivalry between certain bands, but it does not involve me…. I'M METALION…I LIVE IN ANOTHER WORLD; BEYOND THE BLACK (yeee....ed.).

I wanted to ask you about a topic that I know is very personal to you; Euronymous' murder… what do you have to say about that whole chain of events and also his slayer; Varg Vikernes? Some word also on Øystein?

Well, a not so pleasant subject…. Grishnackh slayed Euronymous! Still no one is really sure of the REAL reason…. What annoys me is that people take sides without knowing anything. People who never knew Varg or Euronymous has chosen their "hero"! I don't understand:. So I'm not feeling well answering this question…. Euronymous had some not so good sides but the murder was NOT needed…. DET NOM SKJER DET SKJER!

It seems strange also that after the murder Mr. Vikernes seemed to become a "hero" of sorts in some circles… what do you think of this and maybe some words to all of these Varg-slaves?

Exactly, that's what I talked about…. If people are not wise enough to go their own ways I guess they must follow as sheep. If you want to be a slave then it is your problem I assume….

Also, rumors are abound that Mayhem may reform…Hmmm, not such a good thing, I think,… What do you think of this?

I agree with you…. The reforming of ***Mayhem*** *is not good! Especially when they have a guitarist from* ***Testimony****, a band that Euronymous hated…. But I don't know how the guys will take! At this moment they only rehearse the "old" stuff…. I'm sure they would get a deal quite easy as well when people know that they are still going. Personally I would feel a lot better if they used a name of a* ***Mayhem*** *song just to show the band has* ***Mayhem*** *members…. Something like "Deathcrush" or "Freezing Moon"…. But as they say - SHIT HAPPENS!!!*

OK, there are a lot of 'zines around these days… which are some of your favorites? Also, what is some advice you can give to someone who may be thinking of starting one?

ADVICE TO NEW 'ZINE EDITORS: FUCK OFF! HA HA! Not really, but if you want to do a 'zine, put your soul in it! The world don't need another lousy D.M. 'zine - OK? You must dedicate yourself to the zine…. It is a lifestyle!!!! I hate shitty 'zines!!! And try to do something different!!! Good 'zines are Bloodshed, Voices From the Darkside and some classics are Ultimatum and Peardrop!!! And do I have to say I like your 'zine just because I'm interviewed? HA HA… (Hmmmf!-ed.)

I'm pretty sure that even though you have been involved with the scene for so many years, you never have played in a band…, why is this? If you did have a band what would it sound like in it's ideal state?

Nothing serious, only some idiotic joke bands…. It is mostly because I'm not gifted enough to play any instruments. So instead of playing just shit I decided to pull the plug. But if I played in a band it would sound like a mix of 1st ***Bathory*** *and* ***Angelwitch****…. Metal….*

With so many shitty bands flooding the scene today, it would be nice to gather about 90% of them up in one area and use some chemical weapons, would it not? What advice would you give to someone whom is thinking of starting a band today?

As the 'zine question! FUCK OFF!!! Learn to play your fucking instruments. No one is interested to hear dodgy rehearsals with SHIT bands! Use a few years to develop your style…. Learn to play your instruments…. That is the most important!!! And be dedicated!!!

Let's see here… what were your favorite releases of 1986? And what is your opinion of Dream Death? Your ultimately favorite band (in metal, at least)? (Three totally unrelated questions).

'86…Let's see…. What happened then… ***Slayer*** *"Reign in Blood" of course,* ***Destruction*** *"Eternal Devastation",* ***Sodom*** *"Obsessed by Cruelty",* ***Kreator*** *"Pleasure To Kill"…. That's what I can remember for now. But I think that is OK…. I still love them :LP's! KLAZZIKZ! Also* ***Dream Death*** *is OK, but I'm not the RAVING lunatic you seem to be! And fave metal bands…. Slayer, Bathory, Frost, Mayhem, Emperor, Dissection …fuck … something like that….*

Take your mind to a different setting…. You meet someone at a bar…things move along and you mention that you do Slayer Mag. … They ask a few questions about it (seeing that they've never heard of it)…what would you say?

NO! WRONG SETTING! It would not happen!!! If I choose to put my body in a bar I'd be utterly pissed:. And I don't talk to people I have no interest talking to! If people know me they know I do Slayer 'zine…. If some other lowlife approached I'd tell them to FUCK OFF!!! PISS OFF I'M DRINKING! I'd rather not speak of my 'zine to people who know nothing about it…. I hate to explain about the 'zine….

Anything further you'd like to add?

Yes! AWAY FROM GOD!!! AWAY FROM LIFE! BURN CHURCHES! KILL ALL IN SIGHT! LIFE IS HELL!! NO PITY! NO MERCY!! All the best! (??)

Hails to you Metallon for answering this long one… perhaps in 10 years Descent will be in Slayer's place (and Slayer in Kerrang's HAH HAH HAH!)… best of luck with everything my friend… any final words?

Well, I appreciated this very much…. Sorry if I babble on about nonsense…. Maybe in 10 years I'll be able to pay my rent! HA HA! ARROGANCE IS STRENGTH… Please buy my 'zines, CD's, so I can afford to live… 'THANXXX! Greetings to Garm! THRASH 'TILL DEATH!

Unpure

black metal...

Unpure hail from the coasts of Sweden bringing us a great form of battle metal. Long underrated in the scene, after releasing three demos over nearly as many years, this band has never gained the respect I think that they deserve. Read on as I discuss the Unpure ways with Kolgrim, guitarist and lead howler...

Salve, Kolgrim... where does this chilling eve take you?

I m cursed by this fucking heat and I have much work to do, so I m not in a very good mood.

You make a great point ..."I don't read book to learn how to live my life"...ahh, but some can not think for themselves and need a teacher...What drew you to "satanism"? And what do you think about the underground metal scene's current obsession with it? Will it pass?

I don't really call myself a "satanist" because I relate it very much to christianity. But I stand for a lot of things which is by christians called the work of Satan. And they are my biggest enemies right now, so let them call me a satanist, I don't care, because they are just a bunch of fools anyway. I think the obsession with satanism is already passing. I say: Hail the few ones who act like they are...

I think what first drew me to the sounds of Unpure was the old mid-80s feel the songs project...obviously those old groups hold a place in your heart...do you think that bands of today can ever match the splendor of those greats?

Yes, some bands of today is just as great as the old bands and I m sure I will hear even more bands which is new and great.

Unpure remind me a lot of Mercyful Fate... what do you think of these legends and their recent rebirth?

In my opinion M.F. is one of the best bands ever. The original M.F. is the one I prefer, and I mean everything, especially the older recordings... I don't think the re-formed M.F. is the same of the old and original. On their "In the Shadows" album they haven't got the real M.F. feeling.Except for "Is that You, Melissa," it is the best song - A real M.F. feeling there. "Shadows" and "Egypt" is OK too. Otherwise the album sounds more like a boring album from the band King Diamond. But I think it is great that they are reformed because they are fucking great live with the old songs. On their new EP they have some live songs which is killing me and on the live video I have the feeling is total! I hope they will come here soon. It will be great. But it seems like they have forgotten about Sweden. And I refuse to go to their fucking country just to see them. I'd rather go to America.

As for "satanism" don't you find it just to be a figment of poor christianity? Or is it something more for you? By worshipping "the devil" don't you feel that you are disgracing your forefathers' once proud traditions?

Misunderstanding - my fault! To me satanism is just a figment of poor christianity just as you say. I don't worship the devil, the word just mean that to me, nothing else. But still I'm not a Odinist either. I would call myself a warrior and I perform an art called 'Black Metal'. Everything else is private and I don't discuss it...

In our scene the words "true" and "feeling" are used quite often... I believe a lot of people don't know what the hell they are talking about when they use those terms... To you, what is "true" and what does something need to have "feeling"? *Soon those words have lost its meanings... To me you are true when you following your own instincts and by that you also can get the right feeling. But it doesn't come over one night, no, it takes years and it's hard work. It is very hard to answer this question because I feel that those words would talk for themselves. I mean, something is wrong when you are supposed to explain words...*

Perhaps we should speak of Unpure a bit more... You've recorded three demos! Now you will record again this winter... What can you tell us of the new material? Who will release it?

It is not 100% sure that we will record this winter, it all depends on money (as everything else) and if we at that time feel ready to record. We shall no more force ourself to record something. We have got alot of new songs already and more is coming up. The new songs contains even more metal. They are (and probably will be) more heavy but with more mid-ranged tempo in music. But generally I would say they are in the same style but with more heaviness and less speed.But later on we maybe speed up the newer songs again. The lyrics is still in the same style (maybe little longer sometimes) but more variation. It is still very much about lusts, war, pain etc. And still my longing deep inside.

As for your lyrics... I am not sure what they are exactly... are these lyrics too personal to print? What are the main topics you deal with in your writings are where do you draw inspiration for these?

I think I have answered this a bit already. They are not too personal to print. We have them printed, just ask and you get them. The older lyrics are very much with land-scapes but my latest lyrics I've left all the landscapes as a small part because I must progress and find more to scream about. Development is important otherwise we will soon get unsatisfied and then there is no point in playing anymore. The inspiration comes from deep within and outside in grey and rainy weather and at nights. It is very difficult to say because it comes very natural. There is no tryings to get it brutal and "cool"...

We've discussed the particular strengths of nature... you seem to have a bit of pride in your homeland... how much influence do the scenes of Swedish lands have upon your songwriting? The sea seems to be particularly important....

My land have a very big influence in my songwriting. The sea have a certain feeling which helps me alot even if you can't notice the sea too much in our lyrics. But the land and sea is always there to guide me in my thoughts.

A few more words on Unpure's music... to me it would be an appropriate background for soldiers in battle... or marching to it. Is this accurate? When describing Unpure what do you say?

Yes, it is a very good description. We will also give power and strength when preparing for war. A freezing metal who gives very much power. An easy way for me to describe Unpure music is probably 'Freezing Black Metal for Warriors...

As for the Swedish scene... what can you say about it today? There doesn't seem to be the unity among the bands like there is (although it seems to be failing as well) in Norway... is there jealousy abundant?

I haven't heard to many of the swedish bands of today, unfortunatly. I know very many bands play harmonic melodies and I don t understand the music. To much of the bands is talking shit about each other. It must be jealousy I can't find another explanation. It's so stupid to say something about others when they doesn't know a shit. I m talking with experience...

To you, what would be a fitting end to dispose of today's society? Don't you agree that the majority of people on this planet are a waste of flesh? Kill the weak sheep....

War is the only solution! You I agree totally, nothing but a waste of flesh. Kill them all in battle and then we can have barbecue for the rest of our lives....

Aye, Kolgrim... thank you for taking the time to answer this...how shall you end this?

Merchandise: See Moribund Records for details. Soon we only have a T-shirt left for US $ 17....

HADES

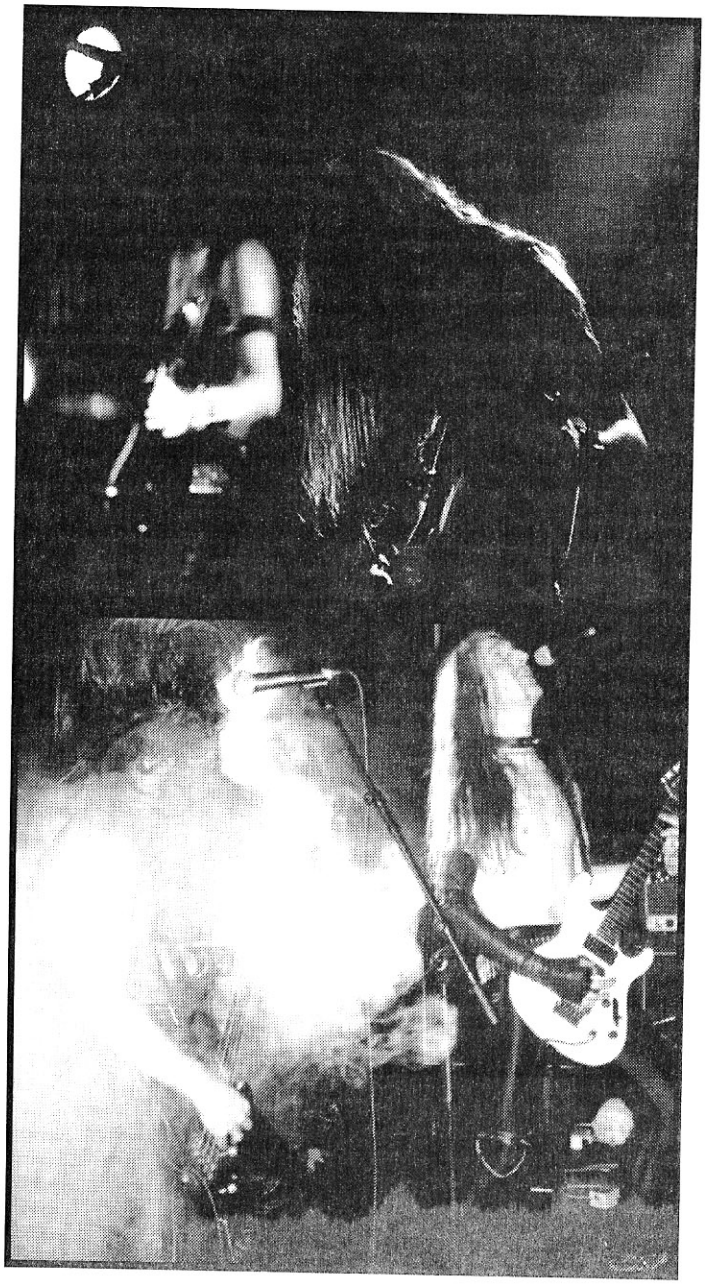
HADES exploded upon the scene in late '93 with their magnificent "Alone Walkyng" demo, giving us a taste of their powerful style of dark metal. Their debut CD "...Again Shall Be" was release in January to a very anticipating scene and hasn't let us down...mixing a great brew of early and late BATHORY with raw grooves and dark rhythms... guitarist Jørn tells us more...

Hail Jørn... how are things in Bergen at the moment?

Alas. Here in Bergen things are calm (calm before, but soon the winter will raise the storm and our name will stand high on banners black!). Nothing much has happened since last time, but I bought the mew **Mercyful Fate** CD "Time" it was very good but the oldies are still goldies, or what!

Your debut CD, "Again Shall Be" has just been released on FMP...perhaps you can tell us a bit about this debut offering...are you pleased.

Yes, we are very pleased with both "A.S.B." and FMP. Well "Again Shall Be" contains 10 songs including "Hecate (Queen of Hades)" and "Unholy Congregation" from our demo "Alone Walkyng." The songs are more personally inspired, but in the same vein as A.W.. We spent some more time in getting the depressive but honest feelings together. It was very important for us to set each other in the mood to be able to record it. Because we anted to bring forward the majestic feeling in the production.



You have told me that some of your inspiration comes from historical Norse culture...hmm, I am wondering why you choose the name Hades then. Do you also have interest in Greek culture?

Yes, definitely. We are very inspired by the elder myths and cultures, especially here in Bjørgvin but also Greece, England, Ireland, Scotland and of course Norway. I myself am fascinated by the historical myths in all particular countries.

Personally, paganism and culture are very interesting topics to me... what in particular do you admire <u>your</u> forefathers for? What is your opinion in Nordic paganism?

The reasons I myself admire my forefathers is that they were warriors to protect their people in the only way there is. I also admire their lifestyles, their culture, their courage, and of course bringing life to me and my generations as I will follow!

Let's speak a bit about Hades lyrics...what topics do you delve into on the new CD... Any personal favorites?

On "A.S.B." the lyrics are mostly about historical incidents such as witches' ceremonies, journeys in ourselves both psychological awakening and dreaming, things that has been and will become a reality again, victories in our mighty history...etc. I think my personal favorite must be ":Again Shall Be" lyrically, because of the message inside!

What about performing live...does Hades get many shows? Describe the perfect Hades performance....

It is theoretically impossible to describe a perfect **Hades** performance. Cause we are addicted to behold of a certain mood, like being hypnotized.

Let's talk about the scene around the Bergen area...there are a lot of great bands from there. Are there any personal favorites that you have or any new bands we should know about?

Yes, in fact there are some newer bands that are worth checking out like: **Aeternus**, **Helheim**. Some of my favorite local bands are **Aeternus**, **Burzum**, **Gorgoroth**.

Hades, to me hold a firm grip on an old heavy metal sound.... do those old bands inspire you at all (NWOBHM, early thrash)? What are some of your favorites from the past?

Thanx for your compliment, yes definitely. I think that if it was not for the former black/death/thrash bands where would we stand today. Some of my faves are: **Destruction**, **Piledriver**, **Candlemass**, **Mercyful Fate**, **Hellhammer/C. Frost**, **Exodus**, **Dark Angel**, **Possessed**, **Sepultura**, **Blood Feast**, **Black Sabbath**, **I. Maiden**, **Deep Purple**...do you need more?

What do you think about the whole corpse-paint concept? It seems that is has gone beyond homage to bands such as Celtic Frost to appear more ridiculous (along Kiss lines)....

I really don't care about the corpse paint concept, cause it has nothing to do with **Hades'** image or lifestyle.

There seem to be hundreds of bands emerging these days (especially from Norge)...some good and <u>a lot</u> bad. Are there any you particularly like or hate?

I think it is great that the good bands are heading forward strongly. But all the bands that just follow the big ones are not welcome in our environment at all. I will not say that I hate any particular bands. But I got a lot of fave bands.

What are some future plans for Hades? Where do you see the band in five years?

Future plans? Hmmm.... It must be playing a lot of gigs, go on tour, release more CD/LP's. It is very hard to say, but one thing is clear...Hades will never die!!!

I wanted to ask you what you think about homosexuals (such as Paul Lendy of Profanatica/Havohej) playing black metal?...is there a place for them or should we follow the example of Bård Eithun?

Definitely follow "Faust"'s example!

To close this...it seems that a lot of bands and personalities in your land have had problems/conflicts with the police...what about Hades and its members?

Yes, I have been in a police conflict, one year ago. But that has nothing to do with Hades, OK!!

Anything else you'd like to add?

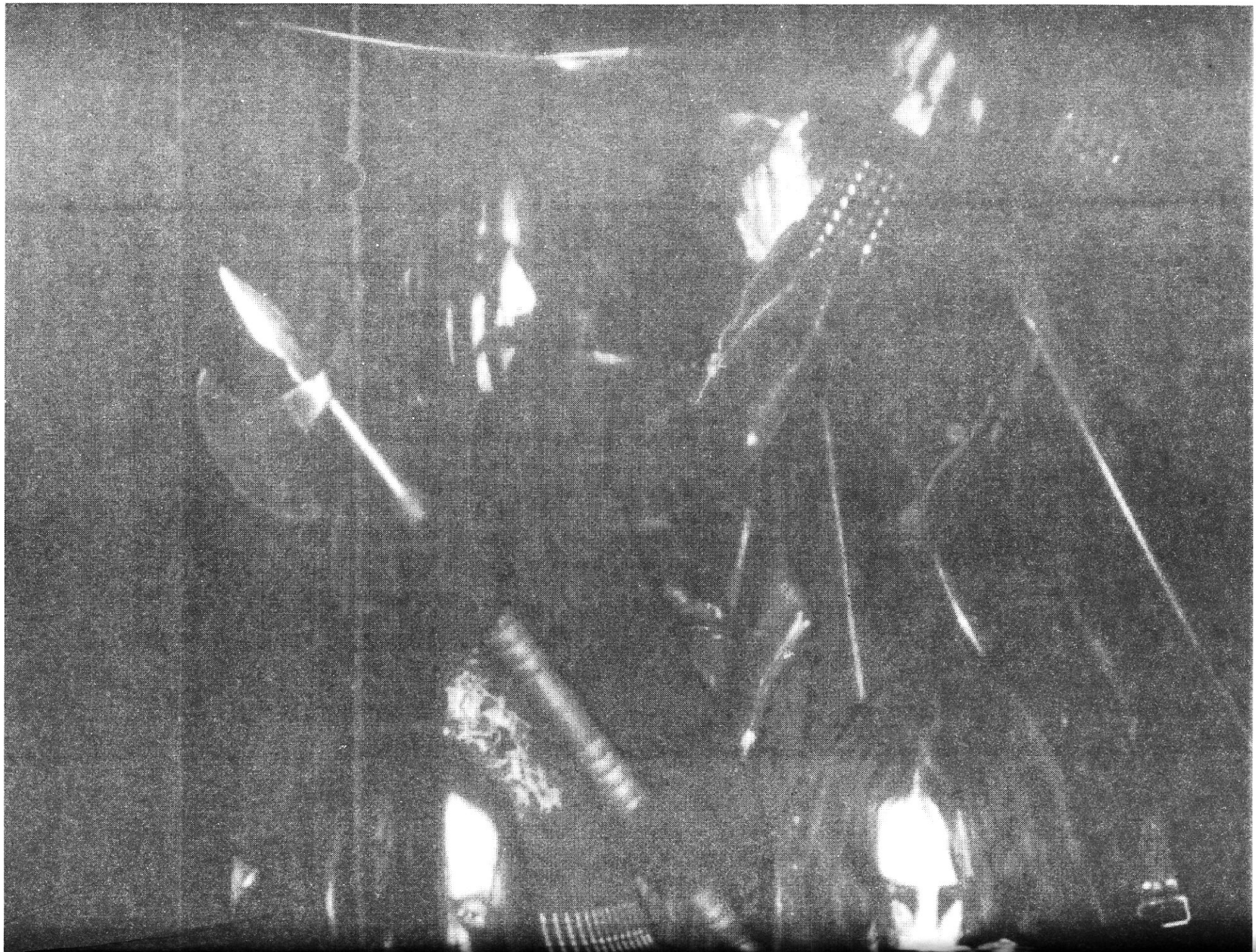
There is nothing else to say than Hail to Frost and Fanden!!!

Thanks Jørn for taking the time to answer this (at the last minute), I hope you found it a bit interesting. HAIL!

Thanx again. I hope you and the readers of Descent Mag. enjoy our interview.

Jørn Tunsberg
Slåtthaugveien 28
5050 Nesttun
Norway

EMPEROR



The Freezing Moon
Everything here is so old...
everything here is so dark...
I remember it was from a dream...
the dream of this town.
I remember I died...
by following the freezing moon.

I am sure that most of you into the underground have heard of this act. Their debut CD "Dark Medieval Times" blended a great mix of war and dark black metal...really a powerful debut. "The Shadowthrone", the group's second offering, is along similar lines yet they seem to be adjusting to a more simplistic and atmospheric sound... this time around, their main influence seems to be ENSLAVED's second album rather than the mighty EMPEROR (whom have transcended unto much higher realms). We pose this interview to a very sensitive Satyr (songwriter) which resulted in some interesting answers to say the least...

SATYRICON

Greetings Satyr, how are you this eve?

When you read this, our new album "The Shadowthrone" is out. I have already finished four songs for the third album, and by the way the forest around here is dead. It's worse than ever before. I can feel the presence of evil at night.

I was wondering what drove you to start Satyricon?

A natural call to do is the only way I can explain this. I'm a part of it so it becomes a part of **Satyricon**.

It seems that you have moved away from the traditional satanic themes . . . can you explain this? Does the flame still burn?

I haven't moved from Satanism to something else. I have never been a Satanist. Though I have shared a lot of ideologies with Satanists. I look upon dark powers as something else than just Satan. I have never claimed to be a Satanist therefore I must claim that cultural pride is not anything new, it has been there a long time. It seems like you guys out there haven't realized that **Satyricon** and **Darkthrone** were very bound to these themes long before the others followed. Yes the flame still burns . . . for Norway.

Satyricon 's "Dark Medieval Times: focuses on a medieval theme . . . I think you accomplish this quite well . . . comments?

Good, you have understood the point. Our medieval revolution is a result of an intense call from medieval times and atmospheres. It was also used as a way of getting the hordes interested in the middle ages. My feelings concerning these times are difficult to explain with a few written words. I guess you understand.

To me it seems that there is quite a bit of an Emperor influence in your music . . . Now Samoth (guitarist of Emperor) has joined your ranks. What will this addition add to Satyricon ? And will his imprisonment cripple the band?

Well, he did that a long time ago, in November '93. His addition to the band has not given anything to the compositions as everybody should know by now. . . . **I compose all music in Satyricon!!!** So you think that the first album sounds like **Emperor**. Since when did **Emperor** use acoustic guitars? Do they use flute? Where do they have medieval like atmospheres? Does our vocals sound similar? Our sound? **No way!** Anyhow I told the other guys in **Satyricon**, the **Emperor** guys, Jenriz from **Darkthrone** and several other persons. They all laughed and told me that this was one of the most stupid things they had ever heard. After that they laughed even more. His imprisonment will not cripple the band in any way. It could be that he automatically falls out of the band when he goes to jail, but that will not hurt us. We added him to the line-up because we needed another good musician, not because he was Samoth.

To me the forests holds something very special . . . unique, mysterious, and powerful. Do you agree?

In daylight the forest is a very relaxing and comfortable place to be, same goes for the evenings. At night the presence of evil is strong, a very possessed feeling is all I can feel. The forest is my biggest inspirational source for lyrics and music.

What does the future hold for Satyricon?

Our new album "The Shadowthrone" is for sure out when this is printed. The music speaks for itself, we have played the advance for people from f. Ex. **Darkthrone**, **Emperor**, **Mayhem** , and **Dimmu Borgir** and these persons have given us extremely good feedback.

Lately there have been quite a few bands emerging from your land… what do you thinks new wave?

I do not socialize very much with the scene, but I know most of those worth knowing. The bands I prefer to "hang around" with is **Darkthrone**/**Isengard** and **Emperor**. The music from the Norwegian bands is best. I haven't got a clue on what's going on in the demo scene, but there have been some damn good albums lately.

Looking at the visual imagery you incorporate in your works I wanted to ask if visual art holds any interest with you?

Th. Kittelsen is my favorite without doubt. I guess I am inspired works of his.

The godly band Bathory will appear in this issues pages . . . what do you think of this legendary act?

Bathory is of course a godly band, six great albums in a row is not bad. His solo project sucks.

It seems that most individuals in the "Black Metal" scene have a thing against good old Death Metal . . . where do you stand?

Do you want me to shoot you? This is very patronizing. I am not a fan of such music, and again I must say. I told people in the Norwegian scene about this and they just laughed because they know it's just bullshit. I like **Morbid Angel** and the first **Decide** album, welcome to reality most of us here who have been into the scene for a while like these albums. The rest is just shit.

What about the international scene? Your opinions. . . .

Norway is the source of the best music. The thing about Greece being as good as Norway is just crap. The climate here must be a reason for our musical development. And also the fact that we are Norwegians make us good.

Varg Vikernes (Count Grishnack(h) has gained alot of attention over the past few years . . . what is your opinion on all this?

I don't know much about it, but it seems like you Americans worship it. I think his nationalistic fight is good, but he was not the first one doing that. I also think his way of talking about his former friends is very childish. And the fact that he can't admit that his way of behaving childish is even more childish. I wish he could stick to a more intelligent level, because I know he's intelligent. The thing is that he's too radical, and individualistic. His Viking belief and others I don't care about. They can do what they want. **Satyricon** er den siste hedenske jarl og vi har lært oss med tiden at vi må seile skipet selv.

To end this. . . .

Anyone interested in merchandise can order from Moonfog. Await the rise of the North. Hill vårt land.

Moonfog Productions
box 289
1450 Nesoddtangen
Norway

This American act is the product of one individual ...namely Baron Von Abaddon...competing with Fenris on becoming the most prolific character in the black metal scene today. His work with SORATH, BLACK FUNERAL, and other acts may be known to you... yet DARKNESS ENSHROUD hold something much darker and more perverse than those others. The Baron speaks...

Hail, brother...how are you this eve?

I have walked the fields and woods this cold October night, the moon calls to me as I walk silently, quite a DARK night, this October 23rd....

Moribund records has just released Darkness Enshroud's "Ancient Kingdoms" which it describes as "Non-musical occult rituals"...it this an accurate representation of what D.E. is about? How do you describe the band?

*This is an accurate description for what Moribund must do, promote records. It must be labeled as this, I think because a lot of people did not understand what the debut demo ad for "Winter of Sorrow" said, "not music as you know it" so what is stated on the ad's is understandable with me. You must understand, **Darkness Enshroud** deals with many different things, both musically and lyrically...it is a journey, and each CD/release will go into a different realm...within the abyss of the darkened mind. I call **Darkness Enshroud** "Black Epic Occult Synthesizer Music," or "Black Epic Transylvanian Synthesizer Music"...but your normal kid will not understand what that means so we must sink to "Below Average" descriptions and make it understandable.*

D.E.'s first demo dealt with an overall theme of death and dying....I am sure "Ancient Kingdoms" has another topic underlying all of it's tracks...maybe you could explain a bit about this and also the topics you delve into with <u>each</u> track....

*"Winter of Sorrow" was the perfect debut demo for the beginning of **Darkness Enshroud**. The base of the beyond....Death, sorrow, necromancy..."Winter of Sorrow" is synonymous with the Wolf-age, those who fear are sheep and those who mourn at a high rate are useless to us. "Ancient Kingdoms" is the next step. This is the entrance to the realms of **Darkness Enshroud**. "I will deliver you to the distant and hostile plains of Gehenna" is the first track, it takes up where "Vacant Mortuaries" of the debut demo left off. The entrance to what is "Hell," the path of dark suicide...the entrance to **Darkness Enshroud**. "Bring Forth the Winterlike Frost" is a remembrance of what the nature part of what was the earth is...after all, **Darkness Enshroud** is not to in touch with this plane or realm of what we call Existence...a desolate land, a lot of dark fog and winds that blow it past thee..."Evil Lords Await" is the towers where the lords of the realm dwell...a torture chamber of spiritual death and pain, where you die again and again, severe pain and suffering....Devouring souls into the great inferno that feeds the mouth that is Satan...not just darkness....Hate and destruction is what this track deals with, that's why the rough music...the ugly guitars are a fucking soul saw that controls the entrance to the fire...the **pain**! "Ancient Kingdoms," the title track, is the core of the title...it is here the mighty powers dwell and manipulate what are slaves...the powers that lie here are the powers which guide the living and the dead. Vampire...the Wolf...the Bat.... "God of Murder...Bring Forth Decay" is a demigod in the realms...a god which controls War and war making...hate within each man.... "Twisting Funnels of Violence That Swept the Summerlike Realm" is concentrating on the powers of spiritual vampirism that drain the souls' powers and essences and vacuums them into one BLACK warlike force that can be combined into one destructive force that is more powerful than 10,000 soldiers because this is negative energy and pure hateful energy, it is no longer mortal...the dark forces within each soul that can be drained into the likeness of one being that will cast its powers into the eye of Wotan...through the blood!! Destroying the light, ALL light that is not from our master. "Lost in a Realm of Ice Beyond the Vision of Mortal Knowledge" is about a certain land that the dark mountains conceal the knowledge that humans have never found out about...well, not many for that matter...some can call this land and mountains Transylvania but this is an extension of this land and essence and souls' power into a different and even darker land.*

I know you plan on releasing "The Forests of Transylvania" early 95...speak a bit about this planned release and the future of D.E. (where you plan on developing it anyway)...

*As you know, I have signed with Moribund for 3 CD's, so this Ep will probably be released as a 7" ep on a different label. The music on this release is darker in the sense that it goes deep into the mental forests and mountains...the on going journey of **Darkness Enshroud**. I am now just receiving the visions of the next **Darkness Enshroud** so I will not speak of it in such an early stage....*

Which brings me to my next question....I know you have an overall interest in Vampirism...how serious are you when it comes to living what you "sing" about? Is it reality to you or more of a fictional fantasy? Speak a bit about this "vampirism"...what is it to you?

*I practice two forms of Vampirism, first there is the spiritual essence draining, the life force which can be taken by Astral contact through touch and eye contact, etc. I will not go too deep into this form as it is a secret with in the "Temple of the Vampire" which I am a member. I actually practice blood rituals with my bride (Both of us were married within a satanic and Vampirific blood ritual) and I do drink blood and such. I am obsessed with Vampirism. I like to torture nice innocent animals, like others like to collect 7" eps or something. I cannot be jailed for doing this and I like it a lot. Pleasure...torture and bloodlust is a great thing...I find pleasure sexually by torture and pain of the victim...something my bride likes a lot, I am very interested in such GODS as Vlad Tepes Dracula and Countess Bathory... I am also into the "classical" images of Vampires, and I read a a lot about the subject. I Believe in the actual existence of Living ones and Dead ones... I am a Living one, for now anyway. I AM everything I write about and this is very important to me, my lyrics mean something personally to me and each topic especially in **Black Funeral** is about what I do physically, mentally and/or magickly. So yes, I actually practice and study vampirism and Vampirific Magick.... Reality and Fictional fantasy are the SAME to me in many ways...both can be broken in seconds.*

There are a lot of bands around which do not know what they are singing about....Do you think it is important to live the lifestyle or is it "just music"?

I think bands who sing about Satanism should be satanists and bands who write about other shit should be into what they do.... It is NOT just music for me, I can't answer for anyone but myself.... IT IS A FUCKING LIFESTYLE and will always be!!!!

I want to ask you about your views on medieval Satanism....I'm a bit unclear of what this signifies to you...maybe you could explain? I know you have a distaste for the Church of Satan,...how do your views on Satanism vary from theirs and where does this animosity stem from?

SATAN is a being to me which is NOT connected much with this realm and plane of existence.... It or he or whatever does exist but only his POWERS (the powers of darkness) are used by such as we. I have never conjured Satan as a being so far but I have witnessed the POWERS and I continues to benefit from them...so far it is half way logical to know these powers work for ME and not necessarily the being it self.... He is within and within the DARKNESS. Maybe one night I will unlock the keys to this realm and summon it...when it appears I will change my view...until that night though...I believe in just what I said. I do not embrace what is love, I HATE LIGHT.... I ignore the Church of Satan because it is simply too good for me, the logic that Mr. LaVey expresses is too kind to the human nature. Human nature is what you are and what you make it...thus it is not right for me because I have made it something else and quite a stretch from his ideology. They do have some interesting points, like the triumph of the will.... I say to grasp the idea of what I am saying, on a fullmoon night or at a BLACK no

moon night, go into the fields or woods and stare into the sky and darkness…this will start the beginning of what Satan partly is…the Night side of life and death. I dislike Mr. LaVey's Satanism for a few reasons.… My definition of Evil and His are two different things. His "evil" is accepting the normal animalistic instincts which dwell in the heart of most normal men. My definition of Evil is "ANYTHING WHICH IS AGAINST LIGHT AND LIFE," so what does it offer me…NOTHING except things which are far too primitive and lifelike. Darkness is what I worship…through Satan. Satan lives in me while I exist here on earth.… I do not need to worship Satan because I have gained power over time through worship of IT and rituals and other things… This goes with what is Wotan.… It or he is within me…thus it is blood worship. I worship Satan as he is within me, WE ARE ONE.… This is a complex thing and this is why all the younger ones in Knowledge should follow ones like us.… Our knowledge shall in time be bestowed upon you. CRUSH MORALITY!!!!!!! HAIL MISANTHROPY!!!!

Also, you have a strong interest in National Socialism and the "pure race" vein of thought…Would you consider yourself a nazi? Where did this interest arise?

I am something of a nazi-occultist.…Like I said I also worship the powers of what is Wotan/Odin, Fenris…I have awakened powers that lay within my Germanic blood, I am also half Scandinavian so it is a part of me, I accept it and it lives within and beyond…the flesh. I am very interested in the Third Reich and such great nazi-occultists as Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich. The death camps and concentration camps are something I am obsessed with. Torture and killing is a positive and beautiful thing that should be indulged…not concealed. Himmler was an anti-christian occultist who was into north/pagan/Germanic rituals.… Hitler just used christianity to gain power…once he did then he destroyed it for the most within Germany. This is by far a great thing, I am interested in the Hollow earth theory, etc. A lot of hidden knowledge here.… I am an Aryan and I hate, JEWS, NIGGERS and such… subhumans which act like apes and drown in their own slime.… Niggers also have lower Iq's than Aryans, that is a fact… why do you think when we tied ropes to their necks all they had was mud huts and we had empires??? Kill them all.… A waste to the earth… HEIL HITLER!!!! THE SPIRITS OF THESE GREAT BEINGS ARE FOREVER!!

There seem to be quite a few other bands in the scene whom label themselves "nazis".… Do you think it's become a trend since "the Count's" interest began? Have you received any criticism for your views?

Yes, let's take for example, a band called **Funeral Winds**… the music is not bad but I will prove their idiocy.… Hellchrist wrote me a letter covered with swastikas, and the letter itself stated I was a trend and we are traitors because I support Grishnackh, he constantly hailed Euronymous and wined like a BITCH about his death.… By doing this he has PROVED the law of the Strong and the idea of "Survival of the Fittest" is NOT applied… Euronymous was great because of Mayhem, and he actually helped me well over a year and a half ago, but he died in mega pain and in a BRUTAL was so it was is a morbid way beautiful and a nice thing for Grishnackh to do, Euronymous was a member of the Communist Party, and his followers Funeral Winds (Who probably never even wrote him before anyway) drew swastikas all over their letters and called us FAKES??? We laugh at weak, worthless SHEEP LIKE THIS!!! Murder is a great and beautiful thing, which should be done a lot more.

Half of your so called nazis don't even have a fucking clue on what the swastika even stands for, to them it means evil, and actually it is not evil in a satanist way, it is a symbol of the strong, and in a way it can be evil because it represents crushing what is weak and that the ultimate goal and way is SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. Study and learn, besides some of the nazi ideologies have abit too much lighty things for me, that's why I am not a full nazi.

Enshroud

Let's speak a bit more about occult matters… when did you first develop an interest in these topics and what are a few other of your preferred occult interests? Do you see a correlation between these interests and your N.S. ones?

I am very much into Vampirism, spiritual essence draining and actual blood drinking, Lycanthropy, the mental state that can equal the mind of the wolf… a great thing, Satanism, this has ties with everything else I am involved in, nazi-occultism, Odinism/Wotan, the forces with ARYAN blood, mass hypnotism. Like I said, Wotan is Satan more or less, just different mythology, so in fact this goes into my beliefs in nazism. I developed them over a period of years through practice and study. I was interested since a young child, of course I started in primitive devil worship at age 13 and now I am so much more. Everything I believe in has ties in one way or another. I am also very interested in necromancy and death Magick.… This is a very difficult thing to study first hand.

You are also involved in a few other projects as well… could you tell me a bit about each and the main direction of them as well?

Velkaarn is the name of my one being band, I call the music Misanthropic Cold Black Metal. I have recorded the debut release, which is 8-tracks of fast and raw torture music. I am negotiating for it's release and I will probably sign with a label soon … if this happens, I will release the demo which was actually recorded after…and it sounds totally different. I am also preparing an Occult/Satanic/Vampire/Nazi-Occultist journal entitled "Crimson Arcanium"…this will feature something that most underground magazines never do: Rituals. I have compiled Vampire rituals (2 different ones), a ritual for the teutonic knight which calls to the forces within the Aryan blood…HEIL WOTAN! Also some articles on Zyclon-B, a biography on Countess Bathory, and a biography on the lord of the Undead, **Vlad Tepes Dracula**. This will also have tons of photos of the Holocaust, dead jews plus a few but true bands to name a few: **Absurd, Dark Funeral** and more. Await the release this winter.…

After Norway's black circle fell apart it seems that each country now has their own version of it.… you are involved with a U.S. version… how serious is this? What are your goals? (Heh, heh) Doesn't it seem a bit childish?

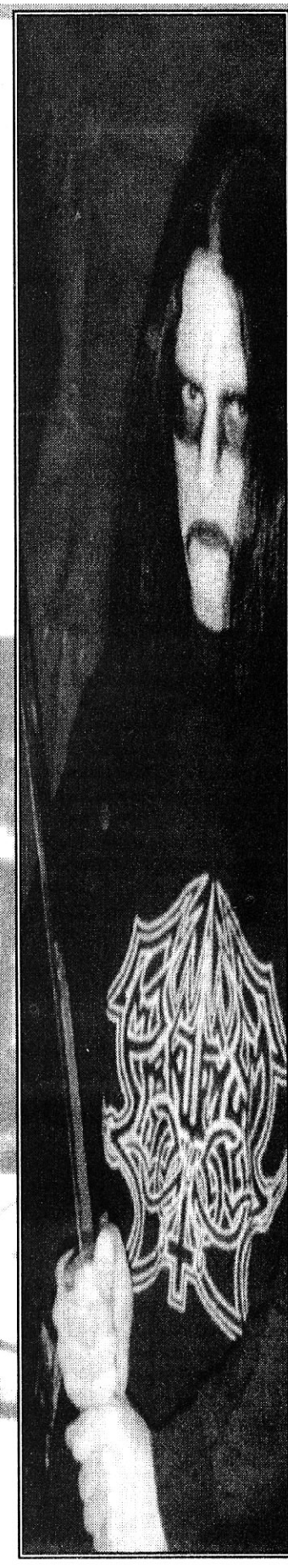
I am involved in this, but I work with it in the shadows… the propaganda and title was made by others and NOT me. It was made a bit childish so I am working quietly now…it is to UNIFY and BUILD a strong Black Metal scene.

Also you are involved in the Cymophane movement…what made you decide to aid in their struggle? Perhaps you could explain a bit about what Cymophane is all about for us.… (I'd like to know).

It works with my Odinistic/Wotanic blood.… I am an ARYAN and Cymophane is for me the rise of the north…NOT Grishnackh worship…if people join for Grishnackh worship, then they just do not get it in my opinion. I decided to join when the Count asked me to join, so here I am… LOYALTY IS OUR HONOR!!!

Here is a different question…today, some mass murderers are considered to be extremely evil, etc., where in reality they don't even compare to the butchers of yesteryear…whom is your personal favorite among the halls of misanthropic slaughterers and why?

My favorite is Vlad Tepes Dracula, the one who impaled over 100,000 humans in his reign. Vlad had a state of almost perfect law, no one broke even the simplest law, because they would be impaled for that.… He burnt the poor and the peasants, tortured and murdered women, men, etc.… A true worshipper of death! When he was imprisoned for a short time, he used to impale mice because he could not get a hold of humans.… A true great being!!! Countess Bathory is my second favorite…she was a Satanist and later she practiced blood Magick and the great practices of blood bathing and torture…this was a Beautiful real woman soulwise…dark…the blood still runs and her spiritual essence and power of the negative energy still exists.… It will be mine. I was also into the great third Reich…Heil Heydrich, Himmler, Mengele, Kock, and



such. I also hail Peter Stumpf, he was a lycanthrope who murdered and brutally killed women, children, men and devoured them. He lived in dark medieval times.

I see our society today as a corrupt, twisted, waste…what would be your perfect society and/or world?

My perfect society would be one like Vlad Tepes had, total control…. I would like to see the Aryan race supreme once again, but the ONLY answer is DEATH TO HUMANITY!!!! Let society destroy itself. I want to exist in utter darkness…the powers are mine…the cold northern dark winds and the deep endless forests…we must impale and destroy that of which is light…let them rot and grow strong again the soil from their blood…. I want to kill humans fro NO reason whatsoever…just to look at someone who has never done anything to me and brutally torture and kill the,…slowly in pain and suffering they will die…the Anti-christ will arise….

Allright, the "Black metal" scene is growing at an amazing rate, with many bands popping up every week…are there any you particularly like or hate?

I support **Nåstrond**, **Strid**, **Behemoth**, **Graveland**, **Mørke**, **Opferblut/Lacerated Gods**, and a few more. There is so much SHIT out today I dislike most bands I receive…. The underground today is not a great thing…bands and beings make the scene great, but when there are only a few…it is more difficult.

The U.S. scene seems to not have received too much attention lately…why do you think this is? And what is your opinion of the scene here, including 'zines and labels?

I think the USA scene is still mostly CRAP, we have some great ones like: Moribund (Heil Odin), Descent (No, I am NOT just saying this because I am doing this interview.) Full Moon prod., Necropolis records, **Absu**, **Grand Belial's Key**, Shadowgate zine, and a few more not to name things I am involved in.

Allright comrade, we must end here…thanks a lot for your time and best of luck…any final words?

Samhain, this night I call…. The season of the dead, unlock the mysteries of spiritual power, pass the infernal powers of the blood beyond life, to the gray skies I look…knowing the keys of Undead are not far…I cast the leathern wings (of my dark mind) into the cold gray skies… build essence of my soul…. Than you for the interview. Anti-Peace, Anti-Light, ANTI-LIFE!!!

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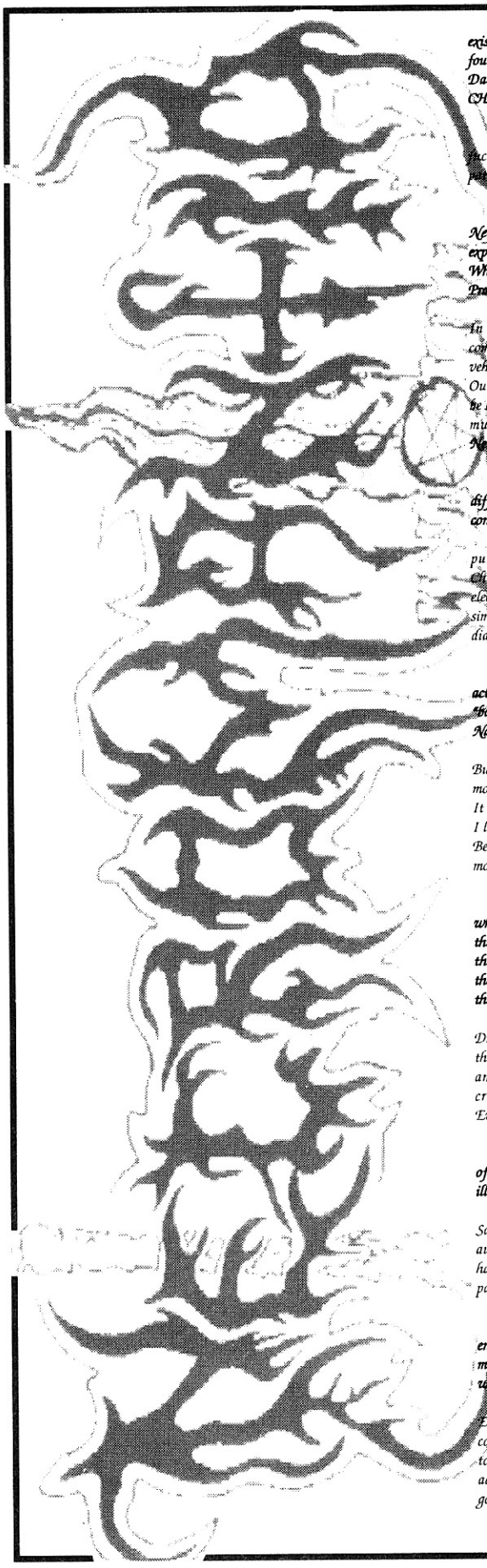
USA



NECROMANTIA…pure cult black metal. This act has existed for years and provides some of the most interesting ideas through four and eight string bass, drums, and keyboards…it's head belongs to Mr. Daoloth, whom also adds his expertise to the legendary ROTTING CHRIST…enough said…Daoloth speaks…

Ave, warrior of the night…how are you this eve?

I greet thee back dark-minded. I'm not so well lately. I'm fucking pissed off with the pathetic humans around me. But I have patience, transformation and changes are close….

Let us start with a few questions about your cult band Necromantia…it seems as if the band has moved from a more experimental stage to a more metal-based one. Is this a conscious change? What about the new material?…What can you say of it? (More "Evil Prayers"-style stuff PLEASE).

If by conscious you mean that we did it on purpose I say no! In **Necromantia** we play what exactly we feel. We don't care for commercialism! If it sells it's OK, if it doesn't it's OK too! The band is a vehicle for our thoughts and feelings and these things cannot be bought! Our new album will be recorded in February '95. The sound will definitely be better, we have more money to spend in the studio now. Concerning the music: more black metalish, more epic, more gothic and definitely **Necromantia** material.

And of Diabolos Rising…I must say that it was far different than I expected…how did this project come about and will it continue? Are you pleased with "666"?

I really don't know what you expected. **Diabolos Rising** is a pure misanthropic energy. A fist in the face of today's hypocritical Christian civilization by using the technology they made. Transforming electricity in pure magic (energy). Mika was here for 4 months and we had similar thought and urges to experiment with industrialized sounds so we did it. I'm very pleased with "666." It's Apocalyptic.

Naos, your solo-project…trancends the borders of your other acts…what inspired you to start Naos? Do you also enjoy other ambient "bands" such as Morthound, Blood Axis, etc.? Tell us about the future of Naos.

It's not exactly ambient but it's guitar-less electronic music. But not dance shit! It's weird atmospheric (even violent) depending on my mood. The debut CD out on HSB rec. From Holland. Sometime this year! It contains 9 tracks (one of them is "Eshaton" like the **D. Rising** album). I love bands like **NON**, **Blood Axis**, **Radio Werewolf**, **Sleep Chamber** etc. Because they manage to create a more intense and dark atmosphere than most black metal bands.

Aaaah…there exists, in our black metal scene, a segment which for some reason or another, adamantly hate Anton LaVey…I think several of these individuals know nothing of what they speak…as they still utilize Church of Satan imagery (esp. Baphomet seal) and thought (either in ignorance or consciously)….what are your thoughts on this subject? Have you received criticism from these parties?

Most of the kids in today's scene fail to understand what Dr. LaVey talks about in his books and actions. But the funny thing is that they use his words and imagery for theirs!!? I'm not going to explain anything, if they don't get it, it's their problem! I've received some criticism from unimportant humans in the past but not anymore! Everyone is free to say what he wants but he has to think first.

Also, you run the Promethean Circle…what can you tell us of this organization? I know in Greece that Satanism is considerd illegal…have you run into problems with authorities regarding this?

Promethean Circle is a publication not an organization. Satanism is highly persecuted here and I have some problems with the authorities but nothing I can't manage. They can't touch me but they have me marked. I don't give a fuck. I do not take illegal actions so these pathetic Christians cannot touch my soul or spirit.

It seems also that there are a number of National Socialists entering the C.O.S. ranks in the past few years…as well as the "black metal" community. Do politics have any place within these groups and what are your thoughts on N.S. and it's upholders?

Concerning C.O.S. politics have nothing to do with them! Everyone can believe what he wants politically. Only few organizations combine politics with their philosophy. National Socialists are attracted to the power and realism Satanism has. I'm basically apolitical although I admire some of the N.S. leaders and the power they have. But I'm never going to follow any of them! I'm too fucking individualistic!

I know you are a member of the ancient cult of

vampirism…what drew you to this subject? Perhaps you might share a bit of it's theories with us….

I cannot tell much because mysteries and knowledge are revealed to you as you're marching forward to full vampiric transformation and ignorant, miserable humans don't need to know! I can only tell that true Vampirism has nothing to do with crucifix, fangs, garlic and movies. This is imagery that we enjoy but it's not the truth. Vampirism is a path to immortality. A lot will walk it, few will reach the end.

Various strains of cultural paganism are also prevalent in our [music] scene as of late…what is your opinion on pagan (in your case Greek or Hellenic) thought? Does it hold a place in your blood along side satanic views, or do the two contrast each other?

I'm very proud of my ancestors and the ancient times when Hellas (Greece) was mighty and strong. We had a great past on in arts, science, war, and magic. In the ancient Hellenic traditions lots of truth is hidden the few can see! You have to look behind the myths. I've studied , know and support our traditions as every Greek person must do. Unfortunately Judeo Christian theories invaded my land long ago and very early and today's people forgot their culture…Sad, but time changes….

Do you have any particular cultures in which their traditions and beliefs spark a flame inside of you (besides your own, of course)…which are your favorites?

Scandinavian and Sumerian (one of the oldest on earth).

Black Metal, to me, is a resurrection of old metal (thrash, NWOBHM, real black (although they all were posers) etc.)…do you think that death metal (á la late 80s into 1991) will have a resurgence in a few years just as the sounds of Venom and Bathory have?

No, I don't think that old death metal days will return. And for what? To see them desecrated by all these "true" and "false" like Black Metal? Fuck no! I prefer to remember them as they were! Things are in a different sound direction now. Colder.

Where do you draw your musical influences? Do you listen to a lot of non-metal music as well (I hope)? What are some of you favorite bands of today?

I listen to lots of classical and ancient (older) music! Pretty, strong, and beautifully made. Intense feelings created. I also like avant garde-out of the ordinary stuff with dark imagery and lyrics. From ***NON*** *to* ***Dead Can Dance*** *and from Diamanda Galas to* ***GGPH*** *What I don't like is very popular music.*

As for other branches of occultism…do you find interest in some of them? Do C.O.S. members practice mysteries beyond LaVey's teachings? I am a bit confused regarding this topic… and I think others are as well….

Come on man! C.O.S. is not a Christian institution. Everybody is free to practice any kind of occult ways he/she wants. Satanists are above all individualists and do what their self tells them. Anyway, true magic is upon the individual and not the system he uses.

As far as this nonsense of being "true"…I think it's gotten out of hand…I see flyers advertising the "truest black metal band", etc. HAHA! But, I suppose no one will advertise for "False Black Metal"…the "status" of being "true" or "false" didn't exist a few years ago. What are your thought on this…?

It's simply ridiculous and childish! What the hell is true or false? How do I know my "true" is the same as yours? And why do I have to advertise it if I'm really "true"? I don't need others' approval, I know it myself. This whole shit started from Norwegian bands and it's totally stupid and meaningless. Maybe they needed some extra attention, who knows?

What about the notion that you must be satanic to play "Black Metal" (or, even worse, vice-versa!!!)?

Satanism is religion, cult, lifestyle, philosophy or anything else you want. Black metal is music! Nice combining them, wrong identifying them. But you have to be anti-Christian in order to play Black-metal and feel it! You can't sing about Satan and going to church on Sundays! It's hypocrisy!

Complete this poem…

My thoughts carry me across the mist

unto the swamp of bile and blood.

A wraith I've become, to travel consciousness…

…?

A predator that preys upon mankind

Through scarlet dreams I've been transformed

as Dragon's wings embraced my soul

The Night now welcomes me as her son.

You meet someone at a bar…after a bit of talking the discussion turns to music and you mention Necromantia…they (in this case a gorgeous brunette…HA!) ask you what the band is about (sound, etc.)…what do you say?

Satanic music in sound and spirit! Violent and epic though tempting like a fruit from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of 'Eden. Why don't you come to my place to find out? (In the case of the gorgeous brunette…).

Any further comments or thoughts you wish to share?

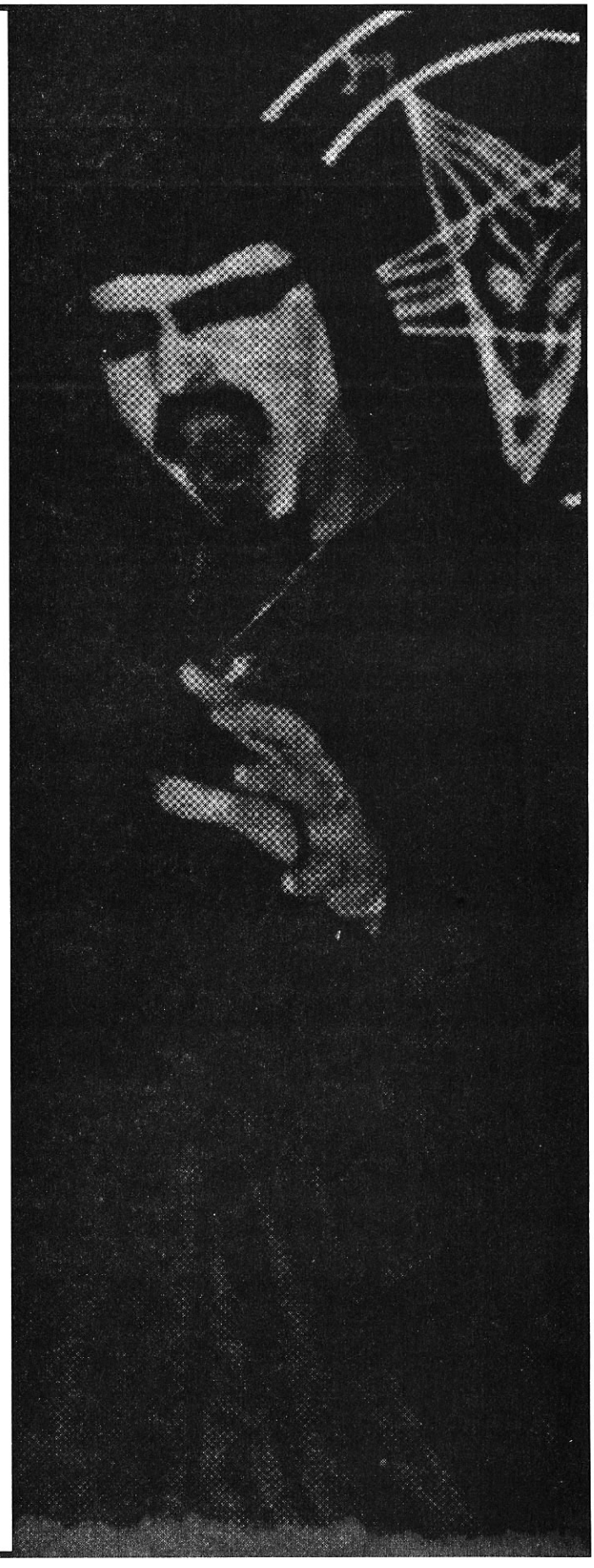
Watch out for serious upcoming changes. We're approaching an age of humiliation and misery. Especially in the U.S. changes will take place soon….

Oooh…this turned out to be a long one…thanks for answering this, Daoloth…. I hope you found it interesting. Best of luck with your present and future endeavors!

It was a damn interesting interview Stephen. Thanx for doing it! Find your true self and follow him. The Dragon is watching you. HAIL TIAMAT.

P.O. Box 79006
17202 Himittos
Athens, Hellas
Greece

(Important!!! Do not write NECROMANTIA on the envelope…the P.O.Box will do. This is due to the hypocritical christian government which exists in Greece.)



darkthrone...fenriz speaks

and practices...can you expand upon this for me?

We are a Nationalistic Satanist, sounds contradicting, but We have brains to prioritize.

Let us speak of Isengard...a pure expression of thyself...speak more of this project and its intent....

Isengard *is...Norse and Satanic. The purpose is to make people feel the greatness of the north and Satan's malice.*

Vocals in Isengard's newest material bring to mind a viking Warrior...and in today's term are more akin to bands as Candlemass than most "black" metal bands.

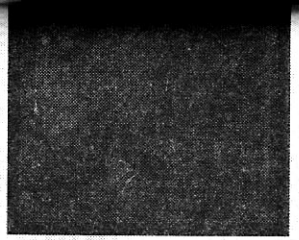
Isengard *is my version of Norwegian folk-music and Black Metal.*

Aye, Fenriz and Warge seems to have been influenced much by J.R.R. Tolkien (in choices of names anyway)...your thoughts on this author and reasoning behind this....

Fenris is one of the Anti-Christs' name. "Lord of the Rings" holds a special mood which we deeply appreciate. The majority here in Norway obviously love the book.

Also along the same lines I have often wondered how much of a role role-playing games and Fantasy books have had in the Norwegian scene. I have seen hints toward this but never a direct statement for or against...be honest here....

We have never occupied ourselves with role-playing games, if any Black Metal musicians did or have done this, then there were few of them.



Hello again…how is Fenriz this eve?

Thus far: Electro Overdose and letter-writing with Bård Faust. Later: Beer, women und Black Metal.

Starting off…mighty Darkthrone will be releasing two albums this year as well as another in '95…speak of these.

"Panzerfaust" is coming in December '94 on Moonfog. In the first half comes our never before released "Goatlord" album, which originally was to come after "Soulside Journey." Then comes "Total Death" sometime in '95, primitive as fuck and hard. With lyrics by people from the entire Norwegian horde! Collection of Norwegian Anti-Christs.

Future releases: "Unholy Black Metal" and "Krieg". We do not believe that any of these releases will have such hideous sound as "Transilvanian Hunger," but the sound sure won't be pretty!

"Transilvanian Hunger" has already caused a stir concerning fascist view points…it is not carried in your own country's shops. Why are these distributors blind?

Muslim whores the whole damned bunch. Infected by the jew-journalists and the socialists. It is <u>not</u> freedom of speech.

I have read another interview with Fenris in which you state Darkthrone will never become a full time "project" for fear of following Venom's path downwards…but rather as an "interest" it will always stay true to the cause in opposition to $. Please expand on this and it's reasoning….

I believe You have understood the point.

On this same topic it is sure that a Darkthrone performance in almost any land in Europe would cause a violent uproar…why the lack of this?

*The lack of? **Darkthrone** stopped playing live in May 1991! We will never play live again. Many reasons are there, but mainly (psychologically explained) misantrophs can not play live.*

Ahh…you are also an appreciator of the greatest deutsche acts of old: Kreator, Sodom, and the mighty DESTRUCTION!! To me these act's earlier material is more powerful than many of today's black metal acts…explain your admiration of these once greats and will we ever hear "The Ritual" or "Curse the Gods" a la Darkthrone? Yezzz…. (Editors note: due to the fact that this manuscript went through a transcription and a translation, the word "deutsche" became "Dutch" by the time mighty Fenriz received it. The translator apologizes for this most horrid and unintentional mistake which was never meant as an insult to the masterous deutsche bands.)(Stephen note-Hmmm.....)

*Dutch? Now You are not only way out in the fields, You are in the <u>wrong</u> field with an Albanian tractor! - The 3 first publications of **Kreator**, **Sodom**, and **Destruction** are an <u>enormous</u> part of the Black Metal tradition (Don't forget **Possessed**, though they were, as everybody knows, from USA). The three above mentioned bands are German! Some **Darkthrone** riffs will always be **Destruction**-inspired. These bands are embedded in my blood. For Helvete!*

And your lyrics…hmm…graphic visions of the "unknown" which Fenriz has experienced…. You made an interesting point that as Satan's poet you can hardly claim the poems as your own (yet they arise from yourself)…reminiscent of what Vorphalak of Samael once stated "It is Satan speaking through my mouth"…thoughts on this?

*Vorphalak sure said it. Large parts of **Darkthrone**'s lyrical poetry is not my own, but evil-demons' and Satan himself. Without doubt.*

And our brother Varg has also contributed to this new material as well…explain his involvement and the results….

What is there to explain. We thought that as the man was in prison, thus he could not publish any lyrics, so We asked if he wanted to write through Us, and he did.

Aye, your involvement in Cymophane, 8.22 seems to have stirred an opposition against Fenriz…I feel all Anti-Christians should unite versus them…for divided we will fall backwards in upon ourselves while united we will march across the opposition…what have you done to unite the "factions"?

Now We write "Galga."

Cymophane is a unit of heathens striving to cause a rebirth of our ancestors' ways…yet I know very little of Fenriz's beliefs

Also…the influence of a few narcotics or hallucinogens seems like it could be apparent in Norse "black metal" thought…Your experiences and am I correct in my assumption?

*Wrong. Narcotics are banned by most, but **Darkthrone** have since the beginning had, more or less, problems with intoxication. Other have also used some, but only a few. The same as with the role-playing games, We believe. Conclusion: Not a lot.*

Neptune Towers' current release, entitled "Caravans to Empire Algol," from Fenriz is an all-synth project. You state Klaus Schulze as your main influence…speak of this piece and Schulze.

*Schulze is, except the cold void visions and Our own sound-pictures, Our only inspiration. The second **Neptune Towers** CD ,"Transmissions from Empire Algol," is very good.*

On the same topic…what do you think of bands/composers as Vangelis, Dead Can Dance, Tangerine Dream who have been doing this for years…any influence there?

*No influence thence. Have thus far only heard a little **Tangerine Dream** and it was good, but We do not allow Ourselves to listen more to them because We easily could be inspired too much.*

What of today's Black Metal acts in a similar genre; Mortiis, Darkness Enshroud, Equimanthorn, Abruptum, etc.…

*We do not use "evil" semi-tone synth nor sad melodies a la Varg/**Mortiis**, **Neptune Towers** has nothing to do with the other "Black Metal Synth" stuff, **Neptune Towers** appeal to all who like what they hear, and to people in the Black Metal scene who like Klaus Schulze. **Neptune Towers** is deep space astral avant garde synth and nothing else. Escape the earth - into the cold void.*

To be continued.....

equim

Here is a very interesting act from the filthy states...EQUIMANTHORN. This troupe consists of members of the well known black/thrash act ABSU... yet the sounds we are talking about here are completely different. This is a purely improvised ambient and mystical based thought put to tape...very nice. I spoke with my brother Thoiseach Equitant about the project, ABSU, and his own personal project (WHICH I CAN NOT RECOMMEND ENOUGH! ONLY FOR THE ELITE AND OPEN MINDED... TRENDIES BEWARE!)...read on to discover more...

Ave, Equitant...how is life in the lone star state at the moment?

Things are ok, it has been raining for 3 days now this week. Its great weather.

Let's jump right into it... Equimanthorn's sound, to me, is one of a bizarre cult ritual...after your debut release from Unisound things seemed to have slowed down for the band...tell us what is in store for Equimanthorn's future and was I correct in my description of the sounds? How has Unisound treated you?

Yes, Equimanthorns sound has been given many titles by people. We call our sounds "experimental occult musik" but, I do think you could call it "ritual musik." Yes, things have slowed down with Equimanthorn at this time. We really dont know if we shall continue Equimanthorn any longer. Now we are concentrating on our solo projects . We still may do one last Equimanthorn LP next year. It's not for sure though.

Perhaps you can speak a bit of Equimanthorn lyrically.... I know you base each song on occult topics but maybe you could venture a bit more into the topics of each....

Each song deals with many things. Invocations, wicca, Kings, sorcery, darkness etc.. They are very hard to explain. It is a vast legacy of supreme beings or rulers that are all one force. They are the watchers of the medium, they are ones who constructed the empires of hidden light . The destructive winds will conquer and triumph over the desert "roba el khaliyeh" which burned this great civilization into the aboriginal sands. In contrast, the disintegration of the human race has begun. the birth of the great queen Ereshkigal can be described in the Nanakanisurrian epic of creation. A great amount of emperors, enchanters and wizards come into the semblance such as Aunga, king of the southern throne, Erichtho, Shamash, Adapa, Hecate, Cernunnos, Angel of Neptune, Frey, Odin, Tiamat, Ngranek, the gods of victory!!! And the great queen of eternal mysteries . . . "nindinugga nimshimshargal enlillara" these hymns and dark sounds are lemetations and cries, yet spoken passages that begs forgiveness to the sorcerers and the fire and black flames of the winged seductress. Equimanthorn brings forth forgotten lands and a new age of lands unexplored. And new dark times to come. We will give you anguish, hate, pleasure, darkness, depression, solitude. A new world you have yet to enter. Ancient lust an ironic twist to the gathering of our gathering of incantations. You will enter "The Entrace to the Ancient Flame."

What about the members of Equimanthorn...are the lyrics reality for you (and them) or is it some sort of fantasy? How deep does the interest and lifestyle run within the band? What about Absu?

The members of Equimanthorn all live their own lives and walk their own paths on the CD. Of Equimanthorn we had eight members. It was good for us. It made things different . The lyrics are somewhat of a reality, but not too much. It is my fantasy. Some what. Our lifestyles are our own and I chose to keep that to my self from now on. Absu is more a reality and real life style from Equimanthorn. The lyrics of Absu deal with many different topics, like Mesopotanian/Sumerian myths, rune magik, the dominion belife of Thoth, our ancestrial Celtic/Gaelic traditions of magic/warriors, the thaumaturgy of the moon, sorcery, wicca and many other topics of the occult etc.

On the same topic, alot of bands these days preach but rarely live up to their words...what I mean is, a lot of of bands it seems, have no idea of what they're singing about. Do you agree...or...?

Yes, I do agree with you on this. I can tell you Absu studys our topics very much and have knowlege of what we are writing in our lyrics. What is the use writing on some topics if you don't even know what you are speeking of. Right?

...Let us move on to your main project, Absu. You have just finished recording your debut album for Osmose...how did this deal come about? Did it surprise you?

Suprise me? Well, I don't think it suprised me, it made me feel good to be on such a great label as Osmose prod. They really treat us well, they have great promotion, layouts, and money to back all the bands up. Our first LP, "Barathrum"...was released by Gothic records and lisenced by Osmose in Europe. That LP has sold very well so far. We were not to pleased with that LP too much. Now we have signed to Osmose for 2 LPs . The new LP is entitled "The Sun of Tiphareth" We are more pleased with how this one has come out. We are now almost done recording this one. Its much better as far as guitar sounds and the music is more in the old ways of black/death/speedmetal.

You were explaining to me how the new Absu material is more in the vein of the old "gods," Slayer, Destruction, etc....why this "change" in your sound? Perhaps the line-up changes made a difference? What can you tell us about this?

Yes, it's a bit more to the old style, but still with a new sound. Why the change? Well, we have always been influenced by the old kings like Destruction, Sodom, Mefisto, Bathory, Slayer, Kreator, Mayhem, Deathrow, Sacrifice, Motorhead, Necrovor (old) Morbid Angel, Incubus, Celtic Frost etc. . . And yes the line up chang has made a very big difference. Athrun, guitar, and Blackmassith, synthis, have been kicked out, so we are now a three piece. It's much easier this way, we can write more how we want things now. The line up now is the way it will remain from now on. It's now: Shaftiel (guitar and voice), Emperor Proscriptor Magicus (percussives, background vocals, and poetic ways), and Lord Equitant Alastor (bass, guitar and effects).

Also, what about Absu's lyrics...they revolve more around a mythological base, correct? What can you tell us about the themes of the new songs?

Yes, the lyrics do evolve around a more mythological basis and an occult base as I said before in ques. 4, mainly Celtic myths,cwicca, sorcery, etc...Some of the hymns are "Apzu", "The Sun of Tiphareth," "A Quest Unto the 77th Novel," "Never Blow Out the Eastern Candle." "The Coming of War," "Cyntefyns' Fountain." "And Shineth Onto the Cold Cometh", "Akhera Goiti Akhera Beiti," " Feis Mor Tir Na Nog" and "Customs of Tasseomancy" after the LP "The sun of Tiphareth" is released we will do a 7"ep called "And Shineth Unto the Cold Cometh." This will have 2 hymns on it. very dark!

You were telling me that you recorded a promo video for Absu!!? Do you really think this is a good idea for the scene? Tell us a bit about the video and what do you think of all these Osmose videos?

Well, yes we have done a video for the song "Fantasizing to the Third of the Pagan Vision." At first I didn't think it was such a good idea to do a video. As we started filming etc. I was more into doing it . It really came out well, very dark! Waite until you see this. I think it's ok to do a vid. Only if it's right! And I think we did ours right . As far as other Osmose bands doing vids its fine by me, cause I know that the bands will do them right. I think Immortal did a live vid. I've seen some fotage of them live!!! And it's great!!! Total holocaust! They give a dark atmosphere and that what's important.

nthorn

I know you are now playing guitar in Absu so I imagine that you are writing most of the music...where do you draw inspiration for your compositions, both musical and non-musical, Equitant?

*Yes, I now play guitar and bass. Same as Shaftiel. We both write the materia now. The inspiration? Hm...it comes from many things I guess. As far as bands I would say mainly [old] **Kreator, Bathory, Motorhead, Destruction, Slayer** etc... And **Mayhem!!!** Alone in the dark comes great inspiration for myself, and the cold as far as my other projects go. **Equitant** and **Equimanthorn** are all improvized hymns, no rekersal is involved. We let our minds flow to the slow rythm of the dark.*

You are supposed to tour Europe in '95, right? I know tht it was originally supposed to be with Master's Hammer but after their very unfortunate break up that won't happen. What are your final words on that now legendary group?

*Yes, we will tour Europe in '95, with what band? We don't know yet. I do wish it would have been with **Master's Hammer**, ther were a great band!! Very original!! Look out for the new and last LP of **Master's Hammer** on Osmose!!! R.I.P.*

And also the extremely atmospheric solo-project has released a new promo as well.... I know you base your songs for this around a variety of pagan/cultural themes...talk abit about this solo project. Don't some of the other Absu members have solo projects as well?

*My new promo of **Equitant** has now been released on Seventh Key Creations. It's called "The Great Lands of Minas Ithil." This is very dark medieval occult, mainly synths, voices, etc... It evolves around my own myths of the infernal kingdom and dark lands of Agurak in Ireland many years ago. It deals with an anciet time. I fight to regain lands, battles, sadness, love, and darkness, Celtic life etc. . . . The first promo was entitled "The Circle of Agurak" and was released on our Black Montanas prod. It consists of many characters, like Myrkenstone, King of Agurak, father to princess Shezetal, he was slain by the warriors of light from the kingdons of Valon.*

Princess Shezetal Elizabeth Myrkenstone, beloved wife of Equitant, and the daughter of Myrkenstone . The slain king of Akurak.

Lokken Ifernain of Andervale, son of Equitant and Shezetal and the mighty warrior of the new lands of Agurak and Vanadurin.

Aurion the Sorcerer, magician of Agurak and leader of the magic circle in lands of Holok Valisi.

Shaftiel, narrator, old warrior of Agurak, commander of Holok Valisis army.

Proscriptor Magikus, young sorcerer under Aurion, mystic flutes.

Equitant Ifernain, lord of new Agurak, and king of Vanadurin.

*This is all the characters in the story of Agurak. And yes, Shaftiel also has a solo project going in the style of **Motorhead/Celtic Frost** metal. Very good stuff! And Proscriptor also has a project going, atmospheric music. With a 7"ep. release out very soon with **Darkness Enshroud.** Look out for both projects!!*

I wanted to ask you a bit about your artwork...it is very good, I think...when did you first get into illustration? Where do you draw your ideas from in these illustrations?

I've been doing drawings since like '85. I started doing all the art for my bands in '87, and I've just kept doing it. My ideas come from looking at certain things. But most are just in my head.

Do you any freelance work? How might someone go about commissioning a piece from you?

No, I only do work for brothers .

On a totally different topics, what's your opinion of acts that are expanding their horizons such as Equimanthorn is? Any favorites?

*I think its good to create new styles of musik. Any faves? Well, I guess one of the main influences of **Equimanthorn** would be the great **Abruptum** "Evil" 7"ep. That is one of the darkest things I've heard. And the **Necromantia** '90 promo had effects on us. I really like the new **Beherit, Darkness Enshroud, Christ Agony, Christ Nails,** and other dark atmospheric acts like **Mortiis, Neptune Towers, Thule, Death in June, Sleep Chamber, Acturus, Mechtchild Von, Umbra et Imago, Black Mass Lucifer, Tangerene Dream, Xerxes, Fifth Quarter, Ordo Equitum Solis, Non, 6th comm, Blood Axis, The Circle Fulgor, Diamanda Galas, Hoos,** etc.....*

Let's talk a bit more about the scene today...since all the media hype is dying down regarding Norway, alot of bands from other nations are getting notice...although there are alot of bands? Are there any whom you particularly like or hate?

*I still think the scene of Norway is the best today. Bands like **Satyricon, Ulver, Gehenna, The Third and the Mortal, Isengard, Emperor, Mayhem,** etc..But yes, there are alot of bands around the world that should be noticed also. **Cruachan** from Ireland are very good, **Primordial** from Ireland is also very good, lots of bands, too many to say. No one we hate. Only **Burzum!!!***

What about theis "nazi" element which is becoming more prominent in the scnen? What's your opinion on it? Do politics have any place in "metal" music?

Politics are stupid, and should have no part in black metal. And the nazi shit I can do without. I have far too many other great things to write about. But, if people want to write about that stuff I'm not stoping them. HA!

After the Norwegian Black circle "collapsed" it seems every country in the world now has it's version of it.... Is this a good thing or merely a childish "football-team"-like attitude? What about this US Black Metal/SS Death squds? A serious threat to American Society?

I really don't care what others do. The U.S. Black mafia shit makes me laugh, it's too funny. Only time will tell if they are real and are a threat to american socity. All I've got to say is watch out, cause this is not Europe, and jails here are not nice.

One last question...in your mind, what has been the best year for metal music and why?

The best years are '86 and '87, alot of the best music was released then. The '80s were a great time, the best time for metal! Only a few bands existed then, it wasn't like today.Too many bands are out these days. Way too many!

Anything further you'd like to add?

*Our new LP, "The Sun of Tiphareth" will be out by dec. or jan. '95. And a 7"ep will follow. For any merchandise of **Absu** write to Osmose prod. Thanks.*

Thank you, Equitant, for answering this interview. It's a pleasure having you in Descent...any last words for the masses?

Thank you my Celtic brother Steve!! Summon the winds of mayhem!!

c/o 3245 Topaz Way, Plano,TX, 75023, U.S.A.

MOR

"FØD

HER

I think MORTIIS may be a familiar name to most of you, through either his works with EMPEROR, or his atmospheric electronic projects MORTIIS and VOND (both having released albums through Germany's Malicious Records recently). His expansion musically through the last two projects has proved particularly interesting.

Ave Mortiis . . . how are you this eve . . . .

Quite good

Let us start with a question which is probably all too common to you. . . . What happened regarding Emperor and your disassociation from that group?

This has to be the 100th interview that I have to clear this up for. . . . What happened was that the others felt I was far too hard to work with . . . in a lot of ways, so they called me up and told me. Hours later we agreed that I'd leave the band. . . . Nothing drastic ever happened. I went my ways and they theirs.

Are you still a fan of Emperor? And what of all the legal problems surrounding a number of it's members? Where do you strand, personally, with the band members?

I'm not a fan of Emperor. As I'm not a fan of anything. Their music was and is OK sounding to my ears. As far as I'm concerned . . . we're not enemies though back-stabbing has occurred between me and Samoth. I'm not sure why, but he's been saying things. . . . And I've been saying things. . . . I don't think we'll became enemies, though. Right now I have best contact with Samoth and Ihsahn. I do not know the basist. I know Hellhammer only by occasional talks. Their legal problems are their problems.

Your new project, Mortiis, seems to be quite a bit different than previous acts. . . . What brought you to perform this unique style of music?

As I left Emperor I brought with me the lyrics I had been meditating much upon the last 6 months (back then) or so. These became the very fundamentals to my dark kingdom's history. I soon felt that putting music to these narratives would be the best way to express my feelings towards this concept. I wanted to compose dark music for a dark and very sad world. That's how Mortiis came to be . . . basically.

I find Mortiis to be equal to a medieval/fantastic soundtrack . . . very ambient and atmospheric. Is this an accurate description to feelings you are trying to get across?

A good description it was. For yes, my music sounds medieval, or give a medieval feel to the listener. Still I try to delve into the unknown. For my world dwells in the unknown spheres. And I try to create music that envisions this. It is all very much up to the listener. To create his/her own vision of the world and the music.

Perhaps what is most intriguing regarding Mortiis is the concept . . . your "Født til å Herske" (Born to Rule) info booklet delves into this a bit. . . . Seems as you are creating quite a "complete" project. Please tell our readers your intentions with this. . . .

The intentions behind the concept is but a personal thing to me. It is all of the world where I will go. May it sound vile or not. That is what shall be. I seek to complete this world with its landscapes, woods, mountains and seas. I have yet only begun at the slightest to form this creation into perfection. With my mind I create the visions of this world and they are all drawn onto paper. I put my music onto those visions/writings. Serving as soundtracks, granting all the visions a "personality" . . . a soul. . . . Also the music will help other (human) minds to understand and to experience their own visions, eventually. True the "info booklet" is but a brief introduction, serving as a sort of interest - increase. So that those who see the essence in that work will seek for more. And more shall certainly come.

And will you continue this Mortiis concept in your next planned releases, "En Mørk Horisont" and "Visjoner av en Eldgammel Fremtid"? What themes will you delve into upon those two releases (and beyond for that matter)?

Forever my music will reflect a journey deeper and deeper into my world and it's untold secrets. These two mentioned recordings have been recorded and will in the future be released as LP/CD under the title "Mortiis II - Anden Som Gjorde Oppror" Which can best be translated as "Mortiis II - The Rebellious Spirit." This is a further step into this world of my essence and soul. So know that all Mortiis' musical efforts will be soundtracks to this, and relating to that concept, the project will not be Mortiis. Perhaps rather Vond or something else.

Where do you draw inspiration for the composition of Mortiis material? Will you stay to a primarily keyboard-based format or will you incorporate some session musicians on the further releases?

I am Mortiis, the world of Mortiis is me. Putting guest/session musicians into that project would very likely destroy the atmosphere and "soil the purity" of this projects very essence. If anybody gets this they'd understand. I might very well put session members into other projects but not Mortiis. That'd be fatal. I will probably stick to the keyboards and synths and do everything myself. If the totally perfect person with complete understanding and respect of my thoughts wanted to play a very medieval instrument on a record I'd probably approve. Also if the same happened with some vocalist (female as I will have some use for that on at least one future record) Then I might have approved to that as well.

Vond is your "side-project" which is also along similar musical lines as Mortiis, with a different concept . . . pure negativity. The 7" dealt with loneliness and depression, the album upon pure suicide . . . will you continue with Vond and what emotions will you focus upon on future releases?

I will at least do one more recording with Vond I've been having difficulties finding the style for the future Vond. We shall see. I can at least say that it will this time deal with power of the mind and power generally. All this put into one negative light as I will decorate the covers with some W.W.II symbols as well as "sexist" photos. Not really sexists, but. . . .

With your explanation of Vond to me I seem to see you as a very misanthropic man. . . . What is your opinion of today's western culture and humanity in general?

Whether I'm misanthropic or not will be up to people around me to judge. Though I have to admit I dislike being around a lot of people all the time. I know how to appreciate solitude. Western culture? You're thinking about American and Western European? I guess it's pretty much based on money and silly politics. I don't reflect too much upon it. I live my life and they can die their deaths in their hopeless industries.

TJJS

JL Å

KE"

It is interesting that you have signed to Swedish Cold Meat Industry for your second Mortiis album . . . clearly another step in the move away from the "black metal" scene . . . or is it?

Do you see yourself moving into the ambient/industrial underground and what brought about the signing?

I've never tried to move away from the black metal scene, nor tried to enter the ambient/industrial scene (though it's by far more interesting). Right now I'm in the twilight zone and will probably stay there forever. I'm a link. . . . I'm the missing link. The signing was quite ***coincidental. I sent them the "Født. . ." tape and*** *asked for a distribution deal. He wrote me back wanting to sign Mortiis. We negotiated a few weeks and signed a deal as a consequence.*

And of the "Black Metal" scene . . . things have changed over the past months since Euronomous was slain. . . . It seemed the event marked a change in direction (possibly the death of) the "Black metal" underground. What do you think of that event and what's happened since?

Well, since Euronomous was killed by the traitor things have changed. I think more shit bands than great bands have occurred. As they wouldn't even have dared to think about forming a band had Euronomous been alive. Same goes for folk that were considered eternal losers back in '91-'92 suddenly grew very big in their foul-smelling mouths only weeks after his death. I've also noted this widely spread new trend that has been putting the classic true black metal Satanism in the shadow: Namely the worshipping of Vikings/Viking gods, or basically paganism. Everybody walks around these days trying to be a proud heathen. Those who do this because they truly believe in this with all their heart and soul . . . Those I hail!!! But those (the most I presume) who do it because of the pig, the pestilent rat and face of ill fortune (HAH!) Grishnackh is preaching about his damn odinism: May you forever be chained in the stench of your rotting and fading idols!! What fools . . .

It appears that "paganism" is also becoming quite more prevalent in this scene . . . do you find any interest in this subject? Or even "Satanism" or certain occult and magical practices?

I just spoke of this a bit. But I think that I should add that I have an interest in the subject paganism. I have studied old cultures a while back. Though nobody cared a toss back then. I'm proud at having such a powerful culture and such famed ancestors to back up my "race" with. But that's all there. I do not think I'm a Viking. One thousand years ago I would have been, but not today. I find the old classic devil (and the science upon hell and its demons) stories very fascinating. Also some other legends related to this. As well as certain occult aspects are fascinating also.

Back to the subject of the Mortiis concept . . . there clearly is a J.R.R. Tolkien influence here . . . do you write these "lyrics" as an impression of dreams (or "trips") . . . and do you have intentions of using vocals in your works or will the concept remain separate?

Actually, when I wrote those first 10-12 lyrics that became the fundamentals for my concept. I had never read a Tolkien book in my life. I did, right afterwards. I easily saw the similarities, but the same happened when I read my first Dragonlance book. I have now "invented" many identical things belonging to my world. When writing I vitally stick to those and so makes it more ***Mortiis****, and not Tolkien or Dragonlance or whatever. I write my lyrics when inspiration and pure lust for writing comes over me. Also when I have visions/ideas. But it's usually the same thing. I've already used vocals in my songs thrice! Listen to the tape and you shall hear! May it never again be thought that my concept is separate from the music. Far from it! My music and thoughts are as one be it with or without vocals.*

Also quite a few "metal" musicians have developed ambient/keyboard based acts . . . Equimanthorn, Darkness Enshroud to name a few. . . . Do you applaud the efforts of these others? Perhaps this was bound to happen . . .after all look at "Into the Pandemonium," right?

I think it's great that people start doing such projects. We are the pioneers of the future, of cause there will always be clones and talent less fucks that will never be able to produce anything worthwhile. I've nothing against those you mentioned, as quite like both. Think about it, "Into the Pandemonium" was a classic record right?

As far as bands such as Liabach, When, Dead Can Dance and new age composers such as Vangelis . . . what is your opinion on their works? Do you draw musical ideas from such sources? . . . and do you think projects such as Mortiis will open doors to these other types of bands for a lot of these die-hard metal kids?

I believe I have found my own identity and style with ***Mortiis****. So I try not to be inspired by the ones you mentioned. However that doesn't mean I don't like their works. I only have a few* ***Liabach****,* ***Dead Can Dance*** *and* ***When*** *albums but I still like their music. I've got a bunch of Vangelis records, though. Excellent! Though I must say, when it comes down to composers I would prefer Klaus Schulze before Vangelis. I'm sure a lot of die-hared metal kids will like that type of music as well. If they had ever paid attention to it! By the way, I don't think there's been any true die-hards since the glory days of* ***Venom****!*

Future plans for Mortiis and Vond (and . . .?). . . .

Future plans for ***Mortiis****: Release my 2 as of yet unreleased albums. Try to sell the current* ***Mortiis*** *T-shirts ($18 for US residents, $16 for Europeans). Also to buy a new synth and work on some new material. Release the book "Secrets of My Kingdom" during '95. Plan some live gigs that must sooner or later occur.*

Vond*: Sell my debut LP to as many as possible. Out now at $18 in USA and $17 in Europe. With gatefold sleeve and poster. Also wait for the first* ***Vond*** *T-shirts to be made. Produce material for the 2nd album.. Await the CD version of the first etc. I also might have another thing going on but it's not official just yet.*

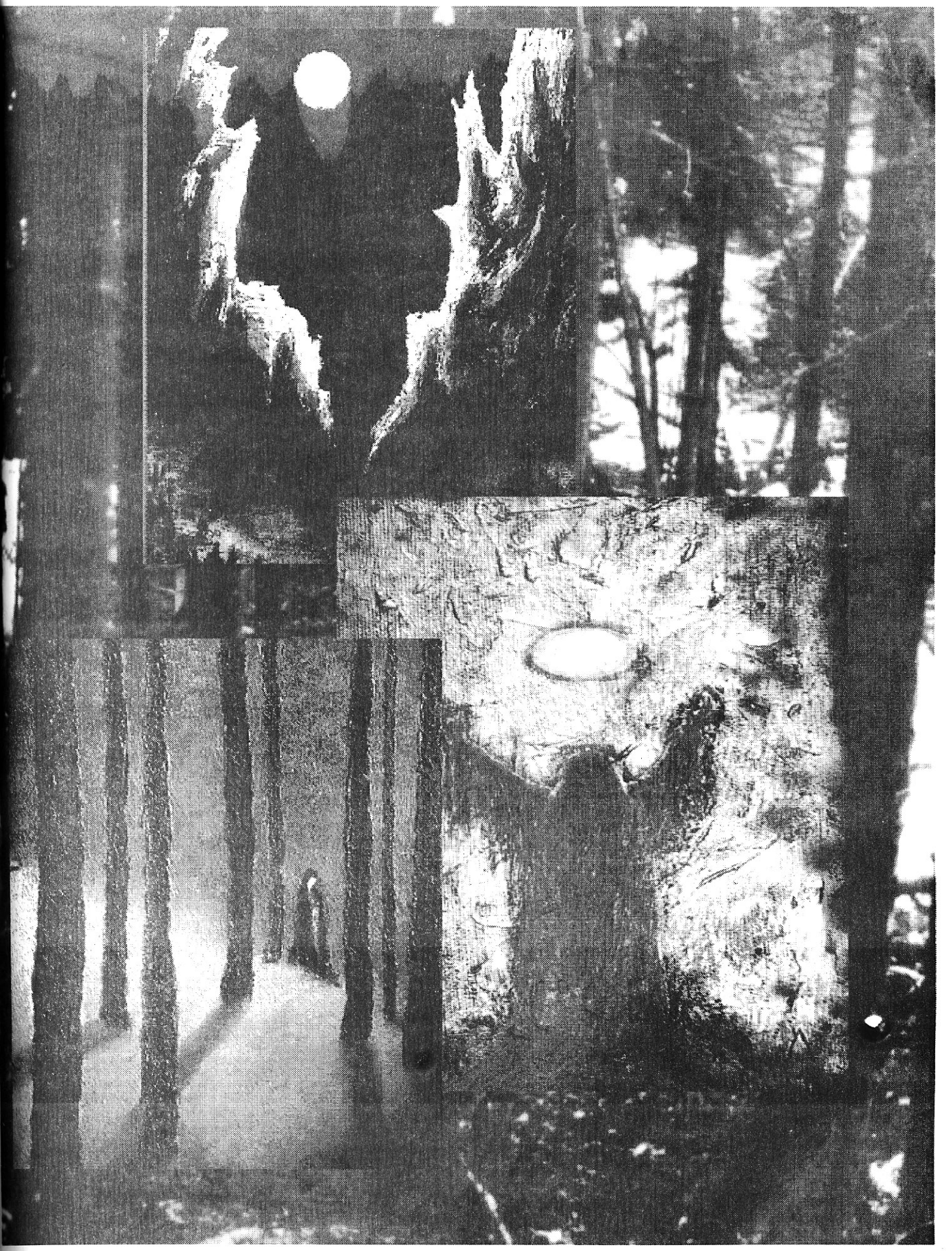
Anything further thoughts you'd wish to add?

I don't think so . . . Info only costs 1 IRC. Thanx for the interview. Forever Dark Dungeon music!

Thank you Mortiis for answering this interview. HAIL! And the best of luck in your unique visions. . . .

H. Ellefsen
A-Ringen 52
302 55 Halmstad
Sweden

Tanja Stene is best known for her fabulous contributions in the form of her paintings "Taakeferd" and "Tordøyr" to Darkthrone's fourth and fifth albums. Here we present a selection of her works. (Unfortunately only in black and white)... She has also done artwork for "Ulver", "Bergtatt" album and some other Norwegian acts as well. As a freelance artist, designer, and photographer she is available for consignment work and her portfolio is only briefly represented here. For serious enquiries contact Stolegt. 2a, 5003 Bergen, Norway.



ENSLAVED

interview which follows is the product of our conversation....

You are known for writing songs relating to and evolving about the old Nordic faith/religion of Odinism.... What does Odinism mean to you, and do you practice any Odinistic rituals?

Odinism, let's see...it is extremely difficult to explain, of course. Many have tried, and I have come to see it as a direction of faith, or a philosophy. It is more difficult to explain as a direction of faith, so let's speak of it as a philosophy. It depends on rules, for example in the Havamál (part of The Elder Edda - ed.), where there are many rules, or rather advice. The advice is there so that when you get in a situation where you have a choice, it can help you choose.

Can you explain more closely what you mean by using the Havamál as a guide?

As it is written in the Edda, and other places, the gods are presented as human beings, which makes it seem more likely. One can for example see the many different sides of man. The god Thor; as a human he does not always tend to use his brain first, rather his fists. Also others: Odin is he who thinks through things, ponders...he is wisdom and the god of bards.

Do you believe in Odinism as a faith, or is it simply a philosophy?

I can't call it my religion 100%, because I don't know enough about it, it is more of a philosophy.

What about other occult and satanic philosophies? Do you believe in and/or respect these?

I respect them completely, but I have no faith in them. I do not live my life that way, so to say....

Do you have something which could be called your life-philosophy on this earth?

Yes, I do. I am very fond of an adage I found in a book, written by an anonymous author. It was a man who was somewhat on edge with the law, and he said that "the main thing is to follow the rules of man, not those made by man."

Let's speak of the ways of the Vikings.... To what lengths will you go to reinstate the Viking ways in the north? Are there any limits?

Hmmm...another thing is also Viking...there were very few who were Vikings back in the old times.

Well then, perhaps you could give us a definition of what your view of a Viking is; those of the ancient times, and today?

Vikings were pirates who went on raids and such...but how far we would go today... well, they say that the man is mightier than the sword, so here we have two ways, as with Thor and Odin, to deal with a situation. But, our first and foremost weapon is of course our music. This is what makes us different from other Norwegian bands who print their lyrics in english, and this is understandable as geographically Norway is placed fairly far off, and they do desire that people understand how we think, but for our part it is in Norwegian so that people here up north can read it directly.

Why did you choose to write large parts of your lyrics in Icelandic, on "Vikingligr Veldi"? And what was the source of the translation?

I'll speak of the translation first.... It was a good friend of ours in Bergen who is of Icelandic origin, and his father is a professor and teaches Icelandic in Norway at the present. So we asked him, he had received many inquiries earlier but did not usually agree to do it. He said he could read through our lyrics, so we sent what we had written to him in Norwegian, and he then translated them immediately and even made a few changes and came with some suggestions, and he thought they were good.

For what reason you chose to have the lyrics translated to Icelandic rather than just having written them in Norwegian?

"Vikingligr Veldi" is...how am I going to define it...well, the record in itself is simply thoughts, and an attempt to travel back, so to say, to try to create an atmosphere from the Viking age, all the way from the beginning of the record, through the lyrics, and into the music... to create an entire picture with it: "Vikingligr Veldi," as we had decided to call it, so the lyrics had to be in Icelandic to make it complete.

Among the many great tales of the Norse mythology, is there a single legend or god you would call your favorite?

I'm partly divided here as well. I am very fond of the legend about Thor and the Midgard serpent, because it shows quite a bit how human beings are and how they react to things. They react instinctively and start to fight. If Thor had used other methods he could have gotten the serpent up from the sea. Also that of the Fenris wolf. How nongenial it really is to tie down things like that. When enough frustration collects, it will be twice as bad when it is let free.

Does Enslaved have a deeper meaning or goal?

Our purpose is not to spread a message, but to make our message available in order to possibly create a movement where there is greater interest for it. Really something I found in a book called theocratic absolutism.

Can you explain this further...

It means that the federal government establishes one godhead, and all others are hidden away and put under one rule, as it is with christianity nowadays. Not to speak of an armed revolution or anything like that, but it does at least provide us with an opportunity, as on "Vikingligr Veldi," when we are looking back at Slaget i Skogen Bortenfor (The Battle in the Forest Beyond), it is a demonstration.

What is your view on the issue of stave-church burning? In comparison to burning a more modern church?

I really don't have a specific relationship to it, so to say. I regard the stave churches as buildings, nothing special, although they are nicely built....

What of the fact that the stave-churches are very much so inspired by Viking culture and often contain viking-type art?

You can of course look at it that way, but they were built for entirety different reasons than just that. That would be like looking at the works of Snorre Sturlason (which are generally on viking history, beliefs and myths - ed.) who has changed things here and there to demonstrate that he himself was a christian, and he also did his best to ridicule what was left of heathendom. I am fairly neutral when it comes to churchburning...well, it is not like I become completely depressed and quiet for weeks if a stave-church burns....

What is do you see as being the ideal political system?

It is hard to say. Something which is fairly close to what exists in Norway today, where rule naturally is by the people. It is not exactly like countries like Switzerland, where they have a direct democracy. Here is it such that if there is a majority for something then it will be adopted. But it is also such that if you have a people, then the people should rule, but someone should also rule in place of the people, because not everyone knows what they are talking about, as the fools in the EU debate. 80% of the people will vote for something they have no clue about. There are too many sheep, so to say. Too many shepherds who really are sheep in shepherds' clothes....

What do you think of Norwegian society today in comparison to what it was 1000 years ago?

We have come far in certain ways of course, ehmmm... so we have, but it there is nothing here for those with potential and resources, they are completely halted. There are those who have no chance of getting anywhere at all, and they are left immobile, at the cost of those who really could have made it much farther. So it is a little - well, with thought of socialism and welfare and such - there is too much Winnie-the-Pooh politics....

Also on the topic of nazism.... There has been a rise in nazism with in the Black metal scene. Does nazism belong in Black Metal? What is your view of this?

*That I don't know. I haven't really involved myself in a established scene, but one is left off to the side if one doesn't play Black Metal or something of the sort oneself. The conflict is that on this one side we have bands who play Black Metal, where I regard most as personal friends, but they have life-philosophies which fork extremely from my own. This goes all the way back to bands like **Venom**, which made a point out of using as much money as possible on the most extremely shocking effects to again make the most money. This is not exactly what the Norwegian bands are doing today, but I respect their definitions of Black Metal and the things they do. Another problem is that nazism is a political direction, and I have a specific problem with associating this with music and to view it as such.*

Especially in the Black Metal scene, many people try to appear "evil." Personally I do not believe in the existence of good and evil. What is your view on this?

*Here we have one of my so called philosophies - that is that I do not believe in anything completely good, anything completely evil, anything completely dirty nor anything completely clean. I believe that man creates a gray mass, with several different shades of gray. And like our music, which exists in the absolutely darker shades, but, there is nothing absolutely evil, absolutely good. It is a compound of course, so to say, so there necessarily has to exist a neutral point which things weigh up to. About being "evil"...it usually ends up with people drowning in contradictions. But as with **Darkthrone**, who exclude everything good and beautiful from their music, which I regard to be extremely great music.*

I would personally use the word "beautiful" about Darkthrone's music. Isn't this a matter of defining words according to how each individual sees the(ir) world?

Yes, but using this viewpoint it becomes very difficult to try to define new words. As I see it, it is beautiful, but to most people it is far from beautiful.

Enslaved's newest masterpiece, "Frost," is quite different than earlier releases. I observe that most

of the songs are written in Norwegian instead of Icelandic. Any particular reason for this?

This time around we felt that it fit best to have Norwegian lyrics. It is so much more direct, so to say... In all ways... the singing, how it fits in; and there are songs which are made after specific titles so as to make it agree, and to create that feeling of entirety to the whole picture which I am always rambling about.

One of the songs on "Frost,"- Yggdrasil - takes its words directly from the Havamál. What was the reason you chose to do this, and how did the song come about?

We chose a particular part of the text, and decided we wanted to use it. Incidentally the song came about in a somewhat strange way. I had been playing around with a song for a few days, and then there came about one of those violent parties of ours, and sometime in the early morning hours I started to play this song, and someone had brought the Havamál, and Grutle saw this and shortly thereafter everybody at the party were singing these verses in unison.

The music on "Frost" is also somewhat different than "Vikingligr Veldi." Many of the songs are faster and more aggressive than before. What was the goal or thought behind "Frost," and did the result turn out as desired?

It was some sort of a new start this time. We had a new label, noticeably without all the chaos of our old label (without commenting on that), so our first new LP, called "Vikingligr Veldi," received fucking great response. Even Norwegian newspapers, serious newspapers, wrote about us. Also the radio and TV stations. This time around we wanted to release a good record, but we didn't have any sort of expectation-pressure of how it should be, such as we perhaps felt on "Vikingligr Veldi" and "Hordanes Land." It was taken for granted, straight out, that it would be good, thus we felt that when we started the work we had fairly loose reins that anything was possible. In the band we have a tendency to make fast music. We listen to bands like **Immortal** *and* **Darkthrone** *and such, and we thought about it, and we thought that it could end up being less aggressive than previously. But then we made the songs, and then it hit us, when we only had a couple of songs left to write, that the material actually was more aggressive, more straight from the gut, and we were very satisfied with this. After this things came up after the party with "Yggdrasil" and the last song, "Isøders Dronning," which sticks out a little bit from the others. This time around, I had free reins to make the music, and no one was sitting around waiting to hear it, and no one could predict whether it was going to be like "Vikingligr Veldi" or "Hordanes Land," if it was going to be faster or the same style, which makes us a nonpredictable band. This is the position we like to be in - an attack position.*

Your music creates, to us, a mystical, ancient, yet futuristic atmosphere. Is this accurate as to what you are trying to project?

Yes, but this time we didn't have a goal set of how the music was going to be... If things went well then that wasn't enough anymore. If we had an idea of how a song was going to sound, for example "Loke," then we could make a song which sounded awesome, but if it didn't agree with the concept we had decided upon, then we would throw out the song. Thus it helped not to have limitations set on the lyrics, which we did not have on this record.

What inspires you to write such epic music? What are some of your musical inspirations?

The strongest inspiration comes out in literature. What I read can give me inspirations as to what the entirety is going to be like. It is as you say more warlike, epic ideas. I have read the Norwegian sagas and stories, and also other types of literature. Friedrich Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra for example, which I was reading while we were in the studio. I play role-playing games, and there is some good literature to be found in those; some well hidden pearls so to say. Those who are interested in good literature, like Tolkien, just can not avoid the role-playing game books. There is also a lot of crap, but a lot of it is great. It can be viewed as a sort of continuation of what Tolkien did, and may have done if he had started Lord of the Rings 50 years earlier.

Tolkien is a very interesting overall. Many Norwegian bands seem to have been inspired by his works.

Yes, it is unbelievable to watch the international scene from '89 till the present, how many things which are taken from that.

And Tolkien has in his turn also taken inspiration from norse mythology, so all the information somewhat goes together and returns to its origins again....

Yes, and he also took things from English superstition; the orcs etc.

The whole naming issue is really interesting, as I read more varied mythology, it is unbelievable how many of them shown up in Tolkien, and then is used by bands....

There is a great deal of old Norwegian superstition, elves and such. Also some old poems. Such as the story about women riding the white-bear and such silly things. That was just the literature, and then there are bands which inspire me as well. Contemporary bands, good Norwegian bands, a few foreign bands too, and other types of music of course. I listen to lots of unbelievably strange things. From **Pink Floyd** *to some classical things and such. All the other*

black metal bands have said they listen to classical music, so I have to say so too!

I don't find your interest in classical music very surprising. Your music is very orchestral, and of high theoretical quality, as if you actually had studied the piano... Am I correct in this assumption?

I have had a small amount of theoretical education, reading music etc. It is fantastic to create a piece which sounds rich and full, and then it can be fairly depressing to later hear a piece from the baroque, such as Mozart's "Requiem." What they managed to create out of a piece of music-paper and a piano is completely fantastic. Certainly I get a lot of inspiration from this.

I haven't taken piano lessons, but I did something so banal as to start to play a tenor-horn for a while, and received some music education then. After that I started to go to the store to buy sheet-music and would sit and enjoy myself with this. This is when I found out about chords and such, and we had a piano in our house, so I would sit and strum by myself.

Especially since last summer, many black metal bands have gained a lot of popularity and become very big. What do you think about this? Any of these bands you particularly like or hate?

Well, one actually notices this very well in Norway, which is generally regarded as the cradle of black metal. Look for example in the newspapers; there was an article in *Dagbladet* (national Norwegian pseudo-tabloid) for parents of teenagers talking about different terms and trends. There were things like "skater: wears such and such clothes, does this and that etc.," "grunge" and "black metal" were also on the list. It described a "Black metal-er" as one who has long black hair, black leather jacket with spikes, and listens to fast music which sounds like screams from their rooms.... When it was starting up no one knew about it, but with time it has become a part of the Norwegian vocabulary. Now people mention black metal casually with no big fuss.... About the bands... I'll probably forget many... **Darkthrone** are grand, **Emperor**, whom I absolutely think deserve what success they have. The continuation of **Emperor** doesn't look too bright, but they are non-the-less very good. "In the Nightside Eclipse" is unbelievable. I also appreciate **Gorgoroth**, whom people accuse of being banal, which is what it is intended to be, which is black metal. When we are speaking of Norwegian bands, we have for example **Immortal**, whom are getting bigger and bigger. Also an interesting new band... **Beyond Dawn** (new!?!?...-ed.). Well, and so on... back to the question.... I grant all the bands the success, but there have also been quite a few ephemera-effects. Because the newspapers wrote so much about it, it came to a point where one only had to step into a studio and scream "I am a Satanist!" and then one would have all the media and the studios interested. Let's leave these bands anonymous....

There were also a lot of anonymous Satanists in the newspapers too. I hope that it will become a tendency in Norway; that people start to accept some disagreements among the bands. But the most important thing is that; yes, we're all Norwegian bands, we hang out in the same places and we like the same music, there is a new trend now where there is co-operation among the bands instead of fighting. What used to be a clear tendency to rivalry, where people would use any possibility to talk as much shit as possible about everybody else, has turned and started to head upward again. And this has its positive results, because then the general apprehension abroad is not that of a group of little kids fighting among themselves.

The black metal scene in Norway is of course fantastic. What do you think of the black metal scene in other countries, especially in the USA?

The black metal scene in the USA? I have really never heard black metal from the US. I have heard of **ABSU**, isn't that what they are called?, through Osmose. There is also **Deicide**... I like the music, and Glenn, he is a noble guy! But, they call themselves death metal, yet everybody else wants to call it black metal. It is satanic of course. **Electric Hellfire Club** as well. I have also received somewhat of an impression of the American in the past few years. I'd answer a letter from the US, and after a little while they would call me up, and I'd talk to them, friendly, for about 45 minutes, and then they would say "Wow, you're friendly! Why are you friendly to me? You're Norwegian!" It seems like a lot of people are shocked when they receive a friendly response. The point is that America is a idiot country....

You are going on tour in Europe in February of this year, is that correct?

Yezzzz.

How was this arranged, and what are your expectations?

The tour is called "Winter War Tour" and it starts February 2nd 1995. It will go from Portugal to Czechoslovakia, that is Czech and Slovakia, and the countries in-between, with Marduk. 25 dates minimum. I look forward to it. I have high hopes because Osmose use very good tour promoters. Also, we are friend of **Immortal**, and we have received a lot of good tips from them. They have been on tour two times. We know what to expect, and we have such a relationship with Osmose, that if anything is wrong then it will be fixed. When we agreed to do the tour with 25 dates, it was taken care of immediately by the promoter, so they had great interest in the whole thing.

Do you play live often? Describe a typical Enslaved performance....

We have played quite a few gigs in the past year. We have played with **Gorgoroth**, and **Marduk**, **Dissection**, **Gehenna**, and we have earlier played with **Emperor**... it is beginning to become quite a bit now. We play a lot of fast stuff. We prioritize the fast songs. We play for the audience... that may sound somewhat strange, but we actually do. Specific requests are played. We have worked for a long time to get a lot of great gear for use in shows. We use helmets - copies of authentic Viking museum pieces, weapons, and different stuff.

I assume you have heard of the USA black metal king Count Leon?

No, I haven't heard about him.(real fucking funny Runhild...-ed.)

What do you think of Hellhammer's attempt to reform Mayhem now?

Yes... nothing personal, but... I shouldn't express myself on this topic, but personally I see it as, musically, a wild stab in the dark. How in the world??!... The only way to achieve the same, with thought of composing the music and such, would be Snorre, of **Thorns**... but the problem with this would be that it wouldn't be **Mayhem**, but **Thorns**. I think it is pretty much impossible. There are only 1 and 1/2 original members left, and Oystein composed a lot of the music. Not all of the music, but.... In its entirety,..., well I do not know. It will have to be up to him. The other thing, to be a little nicer; if anyone were going to restart **Mayhem** then it could be no other than him. I personally would think... that one does not exhume a dead soul unless it is fucking extremely necessary.

What are your thought about the murder of Euronymous, and of Varg Vikernes? How did this event change the scene?

Not to be rude, but do you really think I am going to answer that question?

Well, I guess not, but it's worth a try....

Well, point number one: I have nothing to do with it. The thing is that no matter what side you turn to, or even if you aren't on any side, there are always people who are ready to bark at you no matter what way you turn..

This event caused a lot of problems involving the police. Did Enslaved have any problems with the police, and what do you think about all the arrests which were made?

It is a known fact that we participated in the witness process etc., and we make no effort to conceal this, our role was so minimal that when we went in for the questioning it was no big deal. We basically only had to fill out the forms.

What is your opinion on the arrests that came as a result of this, and which probably never would have taken place if it hadn't been for this event....

There obviously were a lot of uncool things that happened here also, and it became a very bad thing for a lot of people. The scene which previously was so co-operative and together suddenly became not quite so together, and people called the police anonymously and ratted on each other all over the place. I don't really know this, but I guess the main reason for this was that people thought "fuck, now I'm going to jail, so I'll pull with me a couple of buddies." It sort of broke, the hero-idol, so to say. But the police have done their best to exaggerate this whole thing. For example, there is a place in Oslo called 'Elmstreet, where most of those who are interested in black metal hang out to establish it as practice rooms. And here there is civilian-police who are sneaking around trying to map out the scene. They seem to be waiting for someone to pull a corpse out of a sack or something ridiculous. It is somewhat bitter, because we are ourselves tax-payers and it is our money which is being used on things like this. There were insanely too many arrests made, but most of them are out again by now. We had a small episode here in the capital not long ago. It was a group of about 5 - 6 black metalers who had had quite a bit of alcohol, and they ended up beating up a woman. I do not want to stick my nose into this case at all, but what more was that VG (national Norwegian newspaper) wrote a huge article with one full page of drawings of the crime etc. About this. And what was more, that same night, a guy had knifed down and killed his ex-girlfriend, and that only got a tiny notice up in a corner. I comparison, the headline was "New Flood of Violence in Norway." What is creating this wave of violence, is that people sit at home and read this shit and start to think that "I have to establish my own position."

What kind of future do you see for Enslaved? What plans do you have?

To continue the path we are on now, of course, but to get farther, much farther. We have a very good potential to get farther by developing what we are doing now, but as I've said before, we are fairly unpredictable, which is something

we value. Yeah, I see no limits to it now. We feel we have done it the right way. Everything is open in front of us, and it is up to us how we will deal with it. I see no reason to stop now.

Anything you wish to add?

No, not really. I hope that people will buy, or at least listen to the new stuff, or the old if you like that better.

Thanks to you Ivar, it was a pleasure to speak with you. Last words?

Nothing big, but if people do buy our stuff then they should take the time to read through the lyrics. Don't just listen to the music and hear the words, take the extra step and just read the lyrics by themselves. There rests quite a few pearls there. And if people desire to learn more about the topics, then I would encourage them to go to the library. Knowledge makes one stronger.

-Runhild Gammelsæter

DEMONSTRATION CASSETTE REVI

....or demo's to the illiterate. Unfortunately I realized that there are alot more bands whom are wasting there time and ours out there than I thought ... so I must say this...if your band sucks and/or you have no musical or emotional ability and think you are going to become rich black metal rock stars then please do not send your tapes to DESCENT... send it to a 'zine like INNARDS instead, they are right up your alley. On the other hand if you or your band performs original and interesting material, AND NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO THE "METAL" GENRE, then please do get in touch, and I'll give my honest opinion in these pages (the most recommended bands are printed in bold by the way).. Personal preference always goes to atmospheric, melodramatic, and emotional sounds...but I'm actually quite open minded (surprise!)....wait until you see DESCENT III for proof of that.....onwards into the sea of mud....

Aiwaz *"promo '94"*

*We begin this session with an Italian quartet.... **Aiwaz** provide us with a fairly typical, yet well executed form of death/thrash reminiscent of american acts **Morbid Angel** in their "Blessed Are the Sick" era. Not original enough to hold my interest yet they occasionally add a great **Ripping Corpse** feel.... **Aiwaz**, Fermo Posta, Roma Succ. 101, Via Squillace 23, 00178 Rome, Italy.*

In Emptiness *"Still Life Euphoria" demo '94*

*Here is a surprising cassette from the east coast...it seems what we have here might best be considered a cross of **Winter**, **Iceburn** with some interesting keyboards and effects added to compliment this misery...quite interesting, in my opinion...dark and unique, holding a tormenting doom edge...nice.*

Perished *"Through the Black Mist" demo '94*

*With all of the scandinavian bands emerging these days it's sometimes difficult to sort through them all. **Perished** deliver what they term "true death metal" as none of them are satanists...interesting, yet musically this is in the same vein as their counterparts, yet this above average tape seems to capture a unique, atmosphere similar to **Behemoth**'s "...Vastlands" release...that is that the good use of keyboards, acoustic guitars and riffing combine to create an almost futuristic sound. Check this out. I recommend it.... **Perished**, c/o Tor-Arne Haug, Holmenkollvn. 20, 7550 Hommelvik, Norway....*

Sorhin *"Svarta Själars Vandring" demo '94*

*Sweden is producing a multitude of "black metal" acts these days as well...unfortunately very few of them start anything completely original, yet they may execute well. **Sorhin** fall into this category with their **Emperor** and **Marduk** stylized material. I must give them credit that they do capture a bizzare atmosphere...chilling in ways, it will be interesting to hear how this band progresses.... **Sohrin** Black Horde, Matsknutsv. 213, 784 59 Borlänge, Sweden.*

Belphegor *"Sreyarp Suomehpsalb" demo '94*

*Fortunately for all the "average" bands there exists shit such as **Belphegor**.... This group fails to create anything interesting...unless you're into bad American death metal clones.... **Belphegor**, P.O.Box 4122, Pueblo, CO 81003, USA.*

Abemal *"Demo '94"*

*Perhaps a bands which you may be familiar with is Sweden's **Algaion**? Well, **Abemal** happens to be the band where the two members of that previously mentioned act started out...what we have here is some satanic black metal in the old Swedish vein á la **Carnage** (this band began in '91), not to impressive in my opinion but if I had heard this in '89 I would have thought differently, I'm sure...also look for the **Vergelmer** review (side project of Abemal) further on....Abemal, c/o Martin Gärdman, Tallstigen 20, 597 41 Åtvidåberg, Sweden.*

Sigillum Diaboli *"Demo 11"*

There must be something in the Finns' blood which incites pure violence...which is what we have here, four tracks of violent black/death metal with all of the trappings; piercing vocals, fast riffing and drums and a raw sound all which add up to a halfway decent effort. As a special bonus they manage to throw in a classic, "The Third of the Storms" by you know who...some cult sounds on this cassette, that's for sure.... Sigillum Diaboli, P.o.Box 54, 33961 Pirkkala, Finland.

Dissolving of Prodigy *"Echoes of My Sadness"*

*This cassette begins with a unique keyboard piece reminiscent of "The Omen"...very nice, this alone makes the tape worthwhile, in my mind...until you get to the fantastic music. **D.O.P.** perform an epic doomy sort of "battle" metal...full of emotion and also quite original...very good, powerful pieces...recommended...I'm surprised this band hasn't been picked up by Holy Records as they would fit well upon their unique roster.... Dissolving Of Prodigy, c/o Antonnin Mlynek, F. Hrbina 1, 736 01, Czech Republic.*

Seraph

Urrr...here we have some quite terrible thrash-she death metal...elements of hardcore on there as well...don't waste your time on this there are far better bands out there....Seraph, 7302 Sara Street, New Carrollton, MD 20784, USA.

Path of Debris *"Time Lies in Chains"*

...A german five-piece whom give us what they call "melodic doom death metal"...in my opinion this is quite boring, upbeat death metal however...it's all been done before and (unfortunately) will be done again.... Path of Debris, c/o Thomas Kessel Böhmerwaldstr. 13, 84032 Altdorf, Germany.

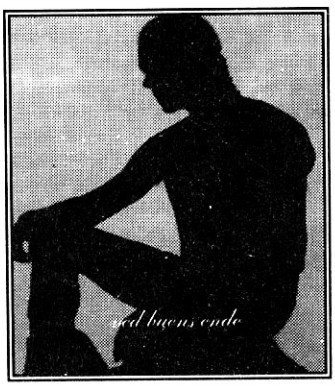
Disciples of Power *"Invincible Enemy"*

*This Canadian four-piece attempts to deliver to us some sort of technical death thrash. While I normally don't go for this stuff too much, they seem to pull it off quite well, if not sounding like another **Suffocation** spin off...Aaaaarh! And these folks have already released two previous CDs!... D.O.P. Wolfgang, Londonderry, P.O.Box 70044, Edmonton AB, T5C 3CO, Canada*

Moonburn *"Promo/Reh. '94"*

*...Here we have a band put together by the creators of the "Diabolical Netherworld" comp.... Not bad, for a rehearsal, I hear a huge **Rotting Christ** influence in the songs contents...the music is fairly well executed and the vocals could use a bit of work but overall a good attempt at atmospheric metal...Moonburn, c/o Kyle Tesh, 248 Palmetto Rd., Bridgeport, CT, 06606, USA*

Ved Buens Ende demo '94



...Ahh, this is more like it. What we have here is some very special material from a bands whom know how to compose some great music. V.B.E. combine several influences to create a unique avant-garde, even almost experimental result...which, in my opinion, places them in the ranks and in the realms of such progressive Norwegian bands as Beyond Dawn and Ulver but (as those two bands

do as well), create something quite different and at the same time, excellent. Very atmospheric…perhaps not so "dark" as it is dreamlike and instruments performed by skilled musicians, which is not a bit rare in today's scene. Highly recommended…hopefully this group will appear in a future issue of this magazine… Ved Buens Ende, c/o Ancient Lore Productions, markalleen 39, 1320 Stabekk, Norway.

Nephilim *demo '94*

…Well, well, well…what do we have here…another american black metal bands. This time we have a group who's main influence, in my opinion, is **Darkthrone***'s 4th album…that is, fast, raw, and intense. Hmmm…I have a liking for this band…even the production of right down there with "Transilvanian…". Interesting to see how this band progresses…pure underground…. Nephilim, 1533 w. 12, Hutchinson, KS, 67501, USA….*

Threnody *"Locusts of Eden"*

"…Our music is basically death metal written in the style of twentieth century classical music." Hmmm…an interesting way to describe this abstract band. Clearly they accomplish something very different and experimental…soundwise the closest thing i would compare this to would be Arnold Schoenberg raping **Ripping Corpse***. Very different than the normal fare of death acts…quite random in it's composition…I would recommend this to anyone into progressive extreme metal…. Threnody, 16409, S.E. Division Ste. 216-222, Portland OR 97236, USA.*

Amon Amarth *"The Arrival of the Final Winter" demo '94*

Sweden has been producing many bands of late highly inspired by **Dissection***…that is, melodic black death metal…in* **Amon Amarth***'s case they entitle it "melodic viking death metal" but it lays upon similar grounds.* **Amon Amarth** *provides us with an interesting blend of old swedish death mixed with today's more atmospheric blend…very good…. Amon Amarth c/o Olli Mikkonen, Övergårgsv. 1 9tr, 114742 Tumba, Sweden.*

Naked Eve *"Mourning Glory" demo '94*

These brits provide a different sound than what normally appears in these pages…albeit none too original. What we have here is a mixture of some deathrash (light on the death) with some keyboards and **Soundgarden***-esque vocals. In fact, I think it would be safe to say that* **Soundgarden** *is this bands main influence…although the music captures some interesting sounds and rhythms…. Naked Eve, c/o Sean Connolly, Havod, 46 Pen-y-Maes Road, Holywell, Clwyd, North Wales, CH8 7BB, U.K.*

Unholier *"Revelations of Sheohl" demo '93*

Hmm, here we have some sort of well-played evil death metal from mexico. While not terribly original, what they accomplish is well played, catchy death perhaps a bit in the vein of **Messugah***…I can detect that they are attempting to create a unique atmosphere…I think if they can accomplish that we'll have a great band on our hands…but until then…? …Unholier, c/o Carlos montes, A.P. 2960, Mty. N.L., 64001, Mexico.*

El Pecado *"Angel de mi Guarda"*

HaHaHa…this is great…not anything out of the ordinary but still cool. A mix of some hardcore and grind, along with tormented vocals with Spanish lyrics. Nothing more, nothing less…. El Pecado, c/o Mike Coles, P.O. Box 603, Anna, IC 62906, USA.

Masochist *"Sucking the Tongue of the Ancient One" demo '94*

Perhaps you have heard of this band, as they have released four other demos and a 7" EP previous to this. Titling themselves "anti-christ black metal" what we have [music wise] is some catchy and downtuned terror…hmmm, perhaps along the lines of old **Dismember** *material…a bit anyways. Heavy and brutal, it is actually a surprise it took them so long to be signed (recently to Moribund rec.)…While not as good as Tchort's (guitar, vox, keys) solo project* **Winds of the Black Mountain** *(incredible material) this holds its own. Reach both bands at… Tchort, 1711 S. Ceder #2, Lansing, MI 48910, USA.*

The Braindead *"Dead" demo '94*

This local band is the hone of the evil dark chaos (guitar) reknowned in the northwest for his dastardly deeds. **The Braindead** *play a crusty death metal inspired punk…interesting. The new Seattle sound…. The Braindead, 11021 NE 123rd Lane, #C208, Kirkland, WA 98034, USA.*

Tha-Norr *"Assault on Aerie" demo '94*

Germany is producing quite a few black metal acts these days as well. A praise to Crowely, this act provides us with some inspired, raw sounds…a bit more simplistic than most these days, but then it holds it's own in my opinion. Not the prodigy of black metal, **Tha-Norr** *will still capture the interest of most interested in the style…. Tha-Norr, c/o Hendrik Poppe, Hasseler Straße 30, 29308 Winsen/Aller, Germany.*

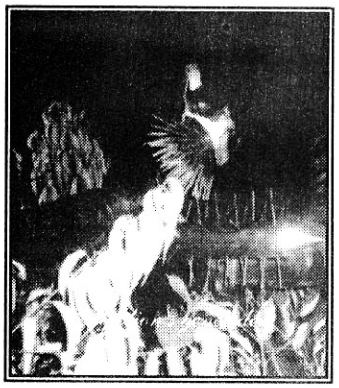
Satariel *"The Heavens Fall" demo '94*

Satariel *are not too known in the scene I think…this Swedish band got it's start back in '93 from the remnents of other black/death bands…what we have here is a band that combines some great riffs along with tormented vocals to give us a piece of atmospheric darkness…pretty good, I'd have to say, although the vocals dominate a bit too much…also this band has a side project called* **Belsemar** *whom are quite similar in structure and content ter create a more chilling and haunting atmosphere at times…. I think that both of these bands have potential if they could invest in a better produced demotape…. Contact both bands c/o Aemelgoth, Sagov. 8, 96193 Boden, Sweden*

Demonic *"Når Mørket Faller" demo '94*
Yet another prodigy

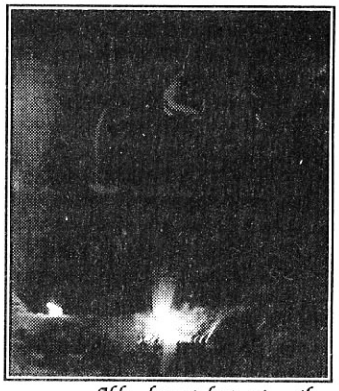
(hmmmmmmm...ed.) **from the north…this band plays Norwegian Black Metal with a definite Enslaved-type feel to it. Intense and raw, yet nothing really original. They play their instruments with skill, and the vocals are in the form of tormented screams. Also exceptionally good production…I don't know what Grieghallen studios are doing to the Norwegian bands, but they sure are doing it right. A promising debut demo from Demonic…I am looking forward to hearing new material from them…. Witchdemon/Fiend, c/o Mogerhagen, Rødtvetvn. 35, 0955 Oslo, Norway. [R.G.]**

Apolion's Genocide *"Olupicsid Nu A Anedro* **Sathanas"** *demo '93*



…Remember the feeling when you first heard Necromantia's first demo?…that cult sound, the real underground, real evil music. Well, that is the same feeling I think you will get from listening to this bands from Columbia, although the production (espesially the mix) leaves something to be desired, the music is reminiscent of a unholy ritual…performed in clandestine. This is darkness in the way bands such as Mystifier and Necromantia do best…fucking great. If you are into real underground unholy hymns then check out this excellent act…. Apolio's Genocide, c/o Lord Empusa Desecrator, A.A. 038354, Cali, Columbia.

Setherial "A Hail to the Faceless Angels" demo '94



Ahh…here we have yet another great act from Sverige. Once again, the Dissection influence is clearly present, although Setherial hold something unique to themselves and exploit it well. Melodic, well played death metal, with enough atmosphere, old heavy-metal sound, and dark riffs to keep it interesting. Mystriis (guitar) assures me that their new material is much more original and progressive, although i think that this tape is much better than most of the boring tapes coming through these days…very good…. Setherial, c/o Mysteriis, Sjödin, Vinkeltået 4B, 85353 Sundvall, Sweden.

Beyond Dawn *"Thorns in the eye of the Chosen" promo '94*

BD *continue to progress in new and unexpected ways…from their beginnings as a atmospheric death metal act, to the incredibly progressive 7", to last years MCD full of strange atmosphere and heavy metal/rock sound to this promo. It seems that they are continuing in the direction of the MCD, that is, in my opinion, towards a a red horizon…the music is heavily influenced by old metal and some indie-rock sounds as are the vocals, however the riffing, addition of keyboards and horns and composition make this something special…one of Norway's most fearless bands, not afraid to break the mold…in fact there never was a mold for BD and hopefully never will be. If this band plays its cards right they might find themselves to be huge - beyond the underground…. Beyond Dawn, The Black Leather Cult, H.H. vei 30 A, N-1412 Sofiemyr, Norway.*

Barathrum "Sanctissime Colere Satanas" promo 1993

Bizzare and original black ritual noise from Finland's. This bands has been around since 1991 and released 2 other demos which should make them well known to most of you. Holocausto of **Beherit** *aids*

on this slab of Venomous noise… Barathrum, P.O. Box 103, 70101 Kupoio, Finland.

Grand Belial's Key demo 1994

These underground heroes are back after a two year haitus. What we have here is something very different than their "Goat…" demo, which was very impressive and unique. This time, however, things are a bit re-hashed…with quite a **Cradle of Filth** influence. Still quality black metal but not the shining star it once was…look for an EP from these Virginians on Pagan records soon…. Grand Belial's Key, P.O.Box 23455, Alexandria, VA 22304, USA.

Subspecies demo '94

A new british act taking their moniker from the cult vampire films…in fact this group is quite obsessed with the topic. Including ex-**Dead Christ** members this is far from the intense black metal that **DC** created more along the lines of a gothic-trance style similar to **Whores of Babylon** and such acts. Different than the normal fare (especially received by this magazine), Subspecies will please those into a mellower yet dark theme…Subspecies, 13 Thackeray Walk, Horfield, Bristol, Avon B57 ONP, England.

Pazuzu "Trendkill" reh. '94

Another band joins the ever growing american black metal scene with a debut offering. Actually, this isn't half bad except for the fact that the vocalist really removes something from the overall impression…the guitar riffing is interesting overall but I'd have to say that **Pazuzu** will have to improve and add some uniqueness in order to separate themselves from the evergrowing hordes of average bands. The drummer is a faggot, despite his adequate performance…he should follow this rehersal's title implication…Pazuzu, 1103 Langford, Westmont, IL 60559, USA.

Obeisance "Black Baptism of October" reh. '94

The past year has shown the growth of an unusual trend in metal; the one-man band. **Obeisance** is the brainchild of Sick Records Head Martin. Unfortunately this doesn't amount to anything more than boring noise with very little emotion or quality…don't waste your time…Obeisance, 220 Alvar, El Paso, TX 79932, USA.

Equitant "The Great Lands of Minas Ithil (City of Isildur)" demo '94

Yet again a solo project fills my ears…this time of a much different sort. Equitant gives us his version of a dreamworld via somber keys and very interesting effects…Equitant also plays guitar in American death lords Absu and contributes to the ritualistic Equimanthorn (which is along similar lines to this)…no metal here, but an ambient setting which fills [my] mind with visions of a mystic realm…very ancient sound, yet unique in

it's ways. This is something that could go very far if it escaped the extremely narrowminded metal scene, C.M.I. and Darkwave take note…as a final analysis; a Coil acid remix of a Mortiis epic. Wonderful…Equitant, 3245 Topaz Way, Plano, TX 75023, USA.

Manitou "Debut demo '93"

Out of Holland, we have another black metal bands…this time it is far different than normal, and they even claim to hold the "new" sound…in actuality the music is more along the lines of **Fugazi** than **Bathory**… a bit strange as a whole but the must get credit for attempting something unique. It will be interesting to see this act progress… Manitou, P.O.Box 151, 2300 AD Leiden, the Netherlands.

Countess "The Wolves Awake" demo '94

Here is a long stander from Hollands which have been in the scene for quite some time now…**Countess** are raw oldstyle metal along the lines of **Hellhammer**…they haven't changed much at all over their existence but I think any fan of **H.H.** or old **Venom** would enjoy this "orthodox black metal" act…Thurisaz Prod., Postbus 3133, 2301 DC Leiden, Holland.

Kvist demo '94

With all the bands emerging from the cold norselands it is becoming nearly impossible to keep up with them…which is not necessarily a bad thing. I am fortunate I came across **Kvist** however, as they seem to stand out in their own way. A good comparison to **Kvist** might be mighty **Immortal**'s "Pure Holocaust" album or perhaps "The Return…" at twice the speed. Although the production is a bit too droning, **Kvist** come across, to me, as one of the better group to emerge from Norway in the Black metal genre in the past 6 or so months…Kvist, Veiginveien 173, 3500 Honefoss, Norway.

Adnauseam "Another Horror of Life" demo '94

All we have here is "Symphonies of Sickness" worship…not too good yet not too bad. 5-6 years ago this would have been much more impressive, unfortunately for **Adnauseam** this has all been done before…Adnauseam, 452 South Lincoln St., Denver, CO 80209-1625, USA.

Cruachan "Celtica" demo '94

One of the few decent bands emerging from Ireland these days, this band creates an interesting mixture of folk-music and metal. .which always creates a unique result (look at Skyclad)…mixing flutes, acoustic guitars and metal this is very original. Check these guys out, it would be interesting to see how this band develops…Cruachan

Immanis promo '93

Grand Lord Immanis gives us primitive black metal in a monotonous and inferior way…abit like an adolescent **Grand Belial's Key** (circa "Goat…")…apparently this act has released another demo last year as well. …Immanis, 60 Pleasley Rd., Whiston, Rotherham, S.Yorks, S60 4HD, England.

Uncomposing "Northernmost Epic" demo '94

Gregor says "Small penis death metal from Montana, Fuck yeah! Breaking new ground in the spank your monkey metal scene."…Runhild says "He's a virgin, I can just tell."…As you can see, a concept that really goes nowhere with its shallow sound and soft -porn lyrics. Beavis and Butthead metal….Uncomposing, P.O.Box 4713, Butte, MT 59701, USA.

Uller "Jarnvid" promo '94

This American band comes across as extremely strange in this genre. What **Uller** give us is a blend of early '80s new wave in a metal package…overall he theme lies in the Asatru/Norse realm as well…. Not worth the money as this is only one song, however it is good for what is is, I suppose…Uller, 731 Estates Rd., Roanoke, VA 24014, USA.

Graveland "Carpathian Wolves" CD

These Poles return with another great offering. This time the major **Emperor** influence has passed as these satanists give us eight tracks full of raw feeling and hate **Graveland**'s music, to me, has captured a unique atmosphere as Rob Darkens use of keyboards is done in an interesting and unique way…really bringing forth a chilling, mystic emotion. The norwegian influence still resides in **Graveland**'s music yet they have transformed it into something all their own…Eternal Devils, P.O. Box 686, 45-076 Opale 11, Poland.

Everdark "Graveside Rites"

…This is an older one from one of the best east coast acts. For some reason, early Morbid Angel comes to mind…yet the riffs are performed in a much more macabre and doomy fashion…really depressive. Satanic lyrics evoked in demonic fashion, original and dark, what more could you ask?…Everdark, P.O.Box 3138, Schenectady, NY 12303-3138, USA.

Helheim demo '94

Politically correct? Then stay away from this white-power band. Open minded? Well, for those few of us this cassette offers a great mix (between the interesting string intro and the metal). **Helheim** perform some really incredible riffs blended with purely raw vocals and some great keyboard touches. The one thing lacking from these guys are this fast attempts which seem to lack any sort of substance….The Helheim Society, P.O.Box 82, 1713 Gralum, Norway.

Enthroned demo '94

When will this ever cease? Why listen to bands such as **Enthroned** playing a bad version of what **Entombed**, **Carnage**, and **Dismember** were doing six years ago? Well, if you're into that sort of thing…then why are you reading Descent?…Enthroned, 1710 Larch Dr., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056, USA.

Verglemir "in the Dead of Winter" reh. '93

The bands are abound in Sweden these days…yet, it seems that the majority of them try to duplicate either **Emperor** or **Dissection** yet fail to repeat the significance and originality of those two masters. Unfortunately it's just been done before in a better way…. Vergelmeer, c/o Maungihm, Hackspettev. 12, S-585 Linkoping, Sweden.

Vlad Tepes "War Funeral March" demo '994

Although this band holds a far from perfect reputation (black legions etc.) **Vlad Tepes** seem to capture some great sounds with their music. What I mean by this is that the music (guitars) create excellent disonant and dark feelings in places…the performance on this cassette leaves much to be desired unfortunately, as the songs are played in a rather sloppy and crude manner…but that's black metal, right?…Full Moon Productions (address at beginning of review section).

Swordmaster reh. '94

This Swedish duo (now signed to Florida's Full Moon Productions) come forth with quite an impressive cassette…fast, well, performed unholy black metal in the nordic vein…fans of **Marduk**, **Cradle of Filth**, and such acts will enjoy this blasphemic nocturnal act. Excellent vocals…really raw and unique…yes; watch out for this band in the future as they are sure to gain a lot of interest. Until then buy this demo from Full Moon Productions.

Winged "Oath of Blood"

For some reason I was under the impression that **Winged** would be playing black metal a la Norge. To my surprise we have something that might be described as bad **Necromantia** crossed with some primitive death metal influences. Could amount to something good in the future but for now **Winged** tread in the sea of the scene….c/o Giovanni, Di Blasi, Via Teniolo, 46, 95041 Caltagirone (Ct), Italy.

Darkwoods My Bethrothed "Dark Aureoles Gathering" demo 1994

Ahh, this is a bit more refreshing. Ex-**Virgin's Cunt** members return with an impressive demo. These Finns mix an interesting blend of black metal...picture "Hammerheart" with a bit more norwegian (**Emperor**) influence. Unique vocals...both spoken parts as well as tormented screams...real screaming without the rawness of acts such as **Immortal**. Not that it's any better, just different and good. One of the better demo bands around these days...c/o t. Kautonen, Rysätie 13, 82500 Kitee, Finland.

Matan Boukous "Hell's Sober Comeback" XXIX A.S.

Two French satanists give us their version of darkness. This is unique and actually pretty interesting, with original riffing...but, the two things lacking here are an extremely shallow production and some terrible vocals (in 80% of the parts)...resolution; if they filled out the band with a second guitar, bass and different vocalist **Matan Boukous** could go places! Not bad, but watch for their next demo for improvement....c/o Diabolical Priest, 79 Route du qué de grue 28260 Sorel Moussel, France..

Einherjer "Aurora Borealis" demo '94

Viking Metal. From the Atlantic coast of Norway comes the latest homage to the Æsir. Musically the warriors pass to us a heavy old metal/hard rock influence yet add the correct elements to turn the riffs into powerful and interesting attacks. Use of chanting, acoustic guitars and keys add to the atmosphere which amounts to being nearly parallel to "Twilight of the Gods." As this band has been picked up be Necromantic Gallery Productions expect something new from them soon....c/o Ulvar Storesund, Boks 51, 4260 Torvastad, Norway.

Circle of Leth demo '94

Another excellent demo from Norway, COL create the correct atmosphere to rank among Carpathian Forest, Winds of the Black Mountain, and other such acts. Combining a huge modern experimental composer influence (this demo being a variation of a theme by Hans Füdenkōning) with atmospheric electronic intros, black metal, piano and keyboards create a five part composition of sorts. The production is lacking here, but as with any good band the feeling can still be felt despite the lack of resources. Great vocals as well...reminiscent of a black mass (although I don't think that is what is intended). All in all, great atmospheric and original music...recommended....c/o J.A.W., Anemoneveien 34, 3268 Larvik, Norway.

My Infinite Kingdom "Ecstasies Over Dreaming Lady" promo '94

These satanists are the element that proves, to me, that the polish scene has developed their own sound. What I mean is that the use of keyboards along with the riffing here is excellent (as with **Behemoth** and the others)...**M.I.K.** have it together enough to produce some excellent material, although the vocals could difinately use some improvement...not original at all. Th remainder of the music proves that this band will go places in the scene, I think resulting in quality black metal. Enough said....c/o Jaroslaw Luczak, P.O.Box 90, 87-116 Torun 17. Poland.

North "Thorns on the Black rose" promo '94

Another polish band...unholy black metal, that is for sure, but reviewing this after **My Infinite Kingdom** is unfair. Analysis: Fast, well played black metal with some quality mid-tempo parts...not a prodigal band, but who is these days?...c/o Jaroslaw Luczak, P.O.Box 90, 87-116 Torun 17, Poland.

Unsurper "Visions From the Gods" promo '94

Well, well, well....This is a good thing...any fan of old **Frost** will enjoy this, especially fans of "To Mega Therion"...envision that era **Frost** mixed with modern, almost technical drumming. An interesting promo, that is for sure. The one complaint I have about this is that their use of runes is beyond me...what futhark is that anyway? J.R.R. Tolkien?...Ha Ha....P.O.Box 388897, Chicago, IL 60638-8897, USA.

Ghostorm "The End of All Songs"

From Lithuania comes their version of American death metal...just what we all need. That's all....c/o Sékla, Architekty 9-25, 2043 Vilnius, Lithuania.

Prophanity demo #Z-'94

Once again we have another version of **Dissection**...not that **Profanity** are a copycat act, it just seems that is the style emerging from Sweden these days and anyone into such a style emerging from Sweden these days and anyone into such a style should check out this band. Fast, extreme northern warrior metal....c/o Grendel, Vintergatan 3c, S-441 36 ALingsås, Sweden.

Trelldom "Disappearing of the Burning Moon..." demo '94

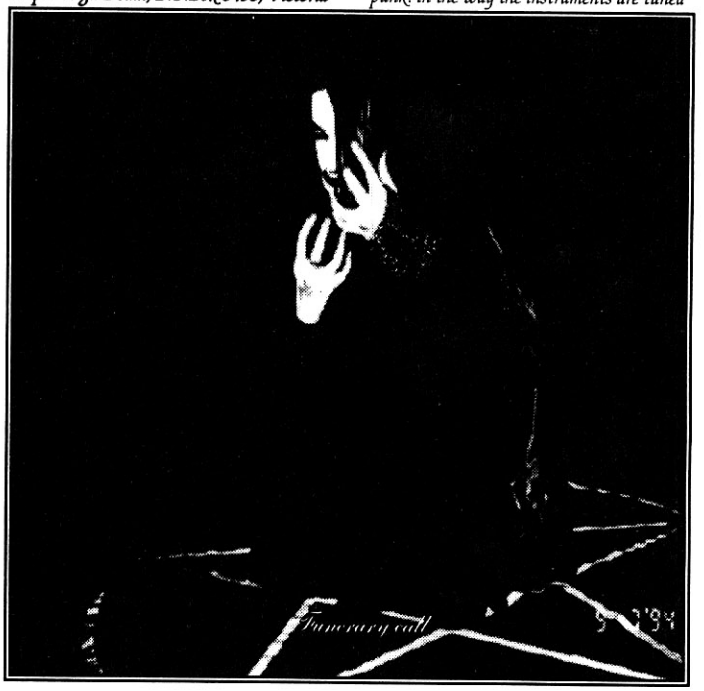
Slavery...well this band is not slave to anyone with their great atmospheric riffing (á la Norge, of course) and composition...Not the most original of all the acts in these pages, but good in their own right. Also of note, this is one of the only black metal bands in Norway whom combine the standard high pitched raw style with the deep growl of a quality death metal vocalist. One last point...these musicians are nazi-sympathetic, so watch out Alicia (of **13**)....c/o Taakeheim, P.O.Box 330, 6982 Holmedal, Norway

Cataplexy "Teardrop Veiled Black Desire" demo '94

From Japan, home of some of the most interesting bands comes another. This time we have what might be considered a cross between some really doomy music and the high agonizing black metal vocals...very good actually. Some interesting ideas are explored by this act and it should be mentioned that their use of keys is particularly interesting. Some good music overall I'd have to say...c/o E-401, 3-1-5, Nagata, Jyoto-ku, Osaka, 536 Japan.

Funerary Call "A Comselh De Ors" demo '94

...Oooooh, this is nice. Another synth based project emerging in the metal scene. This time Impus Erga Deum conjures up a dark and dreamy atmosphere ...primarily through the use of the keys. Vocals are very much along the lines of Abruptum - in fact this tape overall has a feeling much like those perverse Swedes, yet it's definitely much more structured (not too hard to do). If you are into the newer side projects along the lines bubbling up then definitely check out this quality act....c/o Impus Erga Deum, P.O.Box 8458, Victoria B.C. V8W 351, Canada.



Urgehal "Ferd" demo '94

I søvnens stillhet...yet another new band from Norway...this time we have an attempt that might be compared most closely to **Darkthrone**'s "Transilvanian..." disc...not as full (hmmm...)...actually, this is pretty good, not the most original but what is these days? They seek a drummer presently, so any interested parties write...c/o P.O. Box 342, N-3501 Hønefoss, Norway.

Pazuzu "Conjurations" demo '93

Well, this is now the fourth **Pazuzu** I've heard...and definitely not the best (but not the worst either). People have compared this to **Hellhammer** but I'll compare this to something a little more accurate; shit. Both stink, both give one the desire to move away from it quickly, and both need to be sent to the dump. If you want the only quality **Pazuzu** then check the one from Austria....c/o The Evilized One/OB. Muehlmattsr. 52, CH-48000 Zofingen, Hellvetia, Switzerland.

Lethal Curse "Return To Obscurity" demo '94

A Brazilian act is always something to look forward to...or maybe not. In this case we have perhaps a cross of bad **Autopsy** and **Slayer** (some blatant ripp offs actually)...**Mystifier** are still the kings in Brazil in my mind....c/o Alex R., R. Mococa, 40-Zerya-Carieiras, 2P-CCP 07700-000, Brazil.

Ha Lela "Rauda"

Lithuania isn't known for too many bands (**Regridor** being, arguably, the most well known) but what we have here is a group highly influenced by their ancestral beliefs and ways. This is really primitive and basic [metal]...really remind me of some old punk in the way the instruments are tuned (translation...they're not) and the non-intracacies of the riffs. Still, I'd have to say that for some reason there are some cool ideas explored here, such as the use of a full time clarinetist....c/o Vaidas, Taikos 10-11, 4910 Utena, Lithuania.

Equinox demo '93

These Floridians begin this tape with the most blatant **Morbid Angel** rip off ("Blessed..." intro)...but after that it breaks in to some well played, **Samael** influenced metal...not much more beyond that...pretty good black/death metal....c/o P.O.Box 35033, Grand Island, FL 32735, USA.

the official releases....

Burzum *"Det Som Engang Var"*
Misanthropy Records

Finally released, this is the third (and best) album from the now defunct controversial soloproject of Mr. Grishnackh. This is ***Burzum*** *in its most regal appearence giving us eight tracks of epic and powerful metal in the style which has spawned hundreds of anti-christian acts. The count's vocals are tortured and raw, the riffing is as of a royal procession, and the overall sound is one of fantastic splendor. If you're never heard* ***Burzum*** *this would be a good place to start as, I dare to say, it is probably the most accesible of the four releases out.... Excellent. Watch for the fifth, and most likely final,* ***Burzum*** *"Filosofem" later this year... for now Mr. Grishnackh has turned his attention towards* ***Hlidskjalf****...his pure electronic musical expression.*

Behemoth *"From the Pagan Westerlands..."*
Pagan Records/Wild Rags

Licenced from polish Pagan Record, Wild Rags have released ***Behemoth****'s second demo in CD format here in the states. Although the packaging here is inferior to the polish version I will speak of the music...quite different from their previous demo...both in sound and structure. Rather than the raw, old-style approach with "Return of the Northern Moon" this attempt captures a strange futuristic atmosphere which is quite interesting...although very Norwegian in sound,* ***Behemoth*** *stands on their own once again to give us a worth wile release...full of atmosphere and quality.*

Windham Hell *"South Facing Epithaph"*

Moribund Records

Ahh... ***Windham Hell****...here is an act that is sure to capture the attention from quite a few individuals. One of the few guitarists in this scene whom has serious expertise with his instrument is Leland Windham, the head of this demon. "Under the Sign of the Black Mark" performed by Yngwe Malmsteen on acid might describe* ***WH.*** *...although Leland captures some truly unique and dark while progressing on his journey to the ether...noth confining himself to any specific "genre" he incorporates classical structures in a new and proficient way. "Flowing landscapes of avant-garde sound"...oh how true. I believe that* ***Windham Hell*** *will become a favorite among musicians yet the trendy crowd won't be able to comprehend what* ***WH.*** *is about. Excellent.*

Infester *"To the Depths, In Degradation"*
Moribund Records

If bands get better with time as does wine, ***Infester*** *is living proof. While their debut 7" ep was well executed death-grind, they have found their calling with this magnificent album. This is what death metal is supposed to be...hate filled violence...with a sould of darkness.* ***Infester*** *prove how low of a position the main-stram death metal acts have fallen to...blending blackened grind with a dreadful emoption filled sense of doom...this disc never becomes boring in my mind, always stepping one step further down into the pit with each riff. If bands were given the recognition they deserve,* ***Suffocation***, ***Death***, ***Gorguts*** *and all of the other shit would burn in the flame that is* ***Infester****.*

Resuscitator *"Iniation"*
Wild Rags

Here is another disc which will fall into the death metal lake. Not that ***Resuscitator*** *is awful, their riffs are interesting enough at times...although the whole arrangements become tedious about one third of the way into the song, but their overall impression is lacking to me. What I mean is, in today's scene, a band has to develop something impressive to survive.* ***Resuscitator*** *has many of the right elements; but mixes them in a way which is forgetable for me. Their Holocaust-type vocalist is a bit overdone as well...this is black metal to the definition hewever as satanic lyrics are present...judge for yourself.*

Solstice *"Lamentations"*
Candlelight

Candlelight is an interesting label, each band they sign is unique in it's own respect...quite a varied lineup, not very common in our scene today. ***Solstice*** *give us some quality doom in* ***Cathedral's*** *"Forest..." albums vein a bit... heavy and very* ***Sabbath*** *-influenced. What sets* ***Solstice*** *apart from the others is in place of the gutteral vocals common to this genre, an element of actual singing is present. Although he sounds much as* ***Depeche Mode's*** *singer, it's good though. Yes, any fan of* ***Cathedral's*** *"Forest..." album will like this...as musically this could be outtakes from that album. An interesting point about* ***Solstice*** *are their lyrics which are fantastic tales and stories more common to the black metal genre, save the fact that the theme of each generally revolves around some sort of emotion...nice.*

Pazuzu *"And All Was Silent..."*
Head Not Found

Metalion captures another unique act with his hairy paw. This time it's a six-piece from the heartland of germanic spirit, Austria. "A Black Mass of unholy ceremonial necro-spirituals" is their description ...yesss... I might explain this better as their addition to this new wave of muisc emerging from the black metal scene blending electronic, ambient, and industrial sounds with characteristic torture and ritual sound. Although ***Pazuzu*** *seem to be less improvised that some of their brethren...they capture a tribal and medieval mood with their tones. Also, as I said before the ritualistic rythm is present here in many of the fourteen tracks which promotes trance very effectively. Their germanic presence is quite strong, although not as poweful as say,* ***Laibach****, and I'm sure that desuent will appreciate it. All in all, a great disc.... I hope to hear more from these 6. Once again, an album that is not for all, thankfully.*

Emperor *"In the Nightside Eclipse"*

Candlelight Records

After nearly a year and a half we are finally blessed by ***Emperor's*** *debut album. This is a band which, now, has set themselves in metal history, for this is one of the best albums to ever be released from Norway. Once again* ***Emperor*** *forge a new defenition in sound, with the proper amount of studio time and experience behind their backs. This all adds up to a slab of black metal infusing a massive keyboard addition this time around to Samoth's technical and powerful riffs. Ihsahn's vocals are as a fiend cursing flames from the pit of hell and Faust's drumming is a storm of fury. It's been said that the keyboards are overused here, my opinion is that they only add to the excellence and take nothing from the total product. Fucking epic. Unfortunately, I am unsure of where this troupe will go from here, due to legal difficulties...and troubles finding a drummer to fill Faust's boots...however expect their "Wrath..." demo to be released on vinyl format from the beast Metalion this yeear. Also chech out the members' other projects,* ***Arcturus*** *(amazing),* ***Zyclon-B****, and* ***Thou Shalt Suffer****...time will tell, until then, hail* ***Emperor!***

Darkthrone *"Transilvanian Hunger"*
Peaceville Records

This is ***Darkthrone's*** *final effort on Peaceville, the label's incompetance costing them a great band, released after their move to Norway's Moonfog. Once again* ***Darkthrone*** *give us another step in the tyrannical circle of darkness which they breath and live. This time we get the worst (ahem...most "raw") production yer, oviously finding better things to spend their advance on than the studio...however, this creates a very characteristic and cold album...quite a bit more brutal than any of these brutal death metal bands. This is an album that will be hated my many and praised by few, but I doubt that they give a shit. Mr. Grishnackh pens half of the album's lyrics on this one, with Fenriz handling the remainder in his magnificent style. Unfortunately (for myself anyways) only one track is in english...aaaargh! Musical expression of the dark nordic winters....* ***Darkthrone*** *is, and always will be, pure cult (translation: Fuck off Metal Maniacs, Kerrang, etc., etc., etc.) beware!*

Gorgoroth *"Pentagram"*
Embassy Productions

Norway's legions ***Gorgoroth*** *have made quite a stir since they gave us their debut demo some time ago... and now "Pentagram." Aided by Samoth of* ***Empreror*** *on bass, Infernus (guitars) and Hat (translation: Hate,...vocals) came toghether to create 8 tracks of top grade Norwegian black metal...err, a term that is overused I think as each [of the worthy] acts create something unique to themsleves. Hmmm... I think that Euronymous must have been a large influence to Infernus' writing style;*

not a bad thing by any means but the **Mayhem** influence is apparent, to me, in this band's music. All in all, a great debut from thsi evil force…cold, raw and blasphemic.

Hades "…Again Shall Be"
Full Moon Productions

From the west coast of Norwy comes **Hades**…hum, an interesting name for a norse band. But an excellent band it is…their "Alone Walkyng" demo assured them an album deal with it's quality sound and riffing, and this disc is much along the same lines. The interesting thing about **Hades'** music is the old metla feel in contains…. That combined with its heavy homage to "Blood, Fire, Death" and war march rythms praising the glory of the northland and mystic subjects…just adding to the majestetic feel of this band. This band has been getting quite a bit of attention from more mainstram metal press here in america so watch out…**Hades** could be on the rise shortly.

Bestial Warlust "Vengeance War 'till Death"
Modern Invasion Music

Aaaargh! Melbourne has given birth to two of the most violent acts in black metal today and **B.W.** is one of them. Formerly **Corpse Molestation**, this band has changed names and adopted an even blacker course through the storm. This music is all out attack on humanity…pure aggression and speed adding to this chaos. Followers of **Thou Art Lord**, **Impaled Nazarene**, and such acts will devour this woth satisfaction. 'Nuff said.

Sadistik Exekution "We Are Death Fukk You"

Osmose Productions

The other half of the Melbournean chaos syndicate…**Sadistik Exekution** are of a breed all thier own…as a sample, "Hickory dickory dock, the corpse we love to fuck…" this blend of insane mentality and aggression create quite a bizzare musical setting. Hmmm…a bit along the lines of old **Morbid Angel** with a twisted touch…raw vocals, hypnotic riffing and speed create what might be the equivelent of several bad hits of acid. Very interesting… this band is known for its brawling (among band members) on stage, garbage hurling into the audience, etc., etc., etc….on tour now with **Bestial Warlust**, **Marduk**, and **Enslaved** in Europe (Feb.-March '95)….

Diabolos Rising "666"
Osmose Productions

Diabolos Rising is the creation of Mr. Daoloth (**Necromantia**) and Mr. M.L. (**Impaled Nazarene**) but it is not what you would expect…. At first I didn't care for this but I've learned to appreciate it a bit more as time's progressed. Satanic "Techno" (another overused word) with ritualistic lyrics perhaps along the lines (abit) of **Skinny Puppy** at times ("Last Rites")… an interesting combination to say the least. Also the purpose of this project is interesting; "releasing raw misanthropic energy accelerating the coming of the Apocalypse age"…hmmm, now I may compare this, in structure, to **Ain Soph's** "Kshatriya" LP in theory and purpose. As a final analysis; Electronic Satanic Rythm performed by two clearly interesting and philosophical individuals. The title track is quite accurate as well…not for all….

Mythos "Pain Amplifier"
Evil Omen Records

Mythos is a creation of ex-**Belial** and **Impaled Nazarene** members…whom combine to create a quite basic sound, I think. Much alsong the lines of Impaled Nazarene debut album, which I have never really cared much for. Chainsaw guitars, technical and fast drumming and a combination of high "shrieking" and gutteral, low growls creates this form of blackened death metal. Now that I think about it, it seems that the guitarists must have been listening to **Terrorizer** quite a bit in their early stages. Good for what it is but not anything monumental or ground-breaking.

Fallen Christ "Abduction Ritual"
Listenable Records

From the label whom discovered **My Dying Bride** and **Immortal** comes their first mistake. **Fallen Christ** represent whom shouldn't be signed these days…. The typical high speed death metal…with boring riffing and too many blast beats. I find absolutely minimal atmosphere in this album, the emphasis seeming to be on "play as fast and brutal as you can," save your money.

Sabbat "Fetishism"
Evil Records

Sabbat are one of the most underrated bands in our scene today…. Having been in existence since 1984, they've kept that old mid-'80s thrash sound over the years and honed it into a well forged sword of metal. "Fetishism" is their fourth album over the years and incorporates the classic feel of old german bands (**Kreator** etc.), the once great american thrash kings (you know whom) with a bit more of a late '80s primordial death metal feel…hmmm, **Vomit** might be a good compartison although **Sabbat** are quite unique in their own respects. **Sabbat** aren't afraid to mix sounds of all types of metal from over the past 15 years…they definitely deserve the respect they've never gained from the scene over the years, so chech them out. Besides, with song titles like "Burn the Church" and "Satan is Beautiful" how can you pass this up? Also available is their 10th anniversary album "Black Up Your Soul"…a tribute (to themselves) containing tracks from across their existence.

Sabbat "Sabbatical Devilucifier"
Holycaust Records

Ahh…a new label starts with a worthy release. This time it's a four song mini-LP from these Japanese thrash lords…all new and exclusive tracks in the traditional vein…. Excellent. I think it's also interesting that **Sabbat** capture alot of the same strange gothin feel that bands like **Slayer** once did…not so blatant as some of todays bands with the help of keyboards, but still it underlies their music at parts. Bull Metal take note of "Rage of Mountains" for pure thrash supremacy.

Enslaved "Frost"
Osmose Productions

Enslaved are one of my personal favorite bands… with their "Hordanes Land" mini-LP they treated us to a more refined and symphonic sound…while their demo "Yggdrasil" was a raw yet excellent introduction to this poweful act. However, with their debut album, "Vikingligr Veldi," they broke all boundaries and delivered to us an epic blend of over the top athmospheric music combined with ancient Norwegian imagery (from a knowledgeable source) to create one of the most unique metal albums of all time. Of course, I was exited to finally hear this second album…but I ended up being quite surprised by the whole of it. Quite a change from the previous "Vikingligr Veldi," **Enslaved** seem to concentrate on each song separately, rather than create an ambient atmospherre, the rawness of their music shines through. Of course the Norwegian lyrical topic is there in full force…after all it is what defines the band. Musically, a great blend of speed, groove (?), acoustical and keys, and raw metal…another great one from this band…one wonders what the future will bring from the sons of the northstar. True Vikings in our day…magnificent.

Impaled Nazarene "Soumi Finland Perkele"
Osmose Productions

"To show scum how wisdom floats out of bottles of Jack Daniels"…HA HA HA! There we have the third album from these underground favorites from Soumi. I'd have to admit that I never found this band's music of interest and wondered why they were so "popular." Well, with this album they seem to take themselves a bit less serious than ever before (were they ever serious?)…and combine some old rock + metal sonds to their normal fast grinding black metal…actually, I find this to be thier best album for that reason…. I've changed my mind on these goatmen of Finland. Their sound is very much like some old punk bands of the past…nice.

The Chasm "Procreation of the Inner Temple"
Belphegot Records

From Mexico emerges **The Chasm**…this is a rare look into a metal band influenced by native american beliefs and practices. Musically we have an interesting doomish death metal blend…some really great riffs and structures…actually this is pretty good music overall. A bit hard to describe in comparison to other bands, which is good…let's see, maybe **Beyond Dawn**, **My Dying Bride**, and such experimental and innovative acts and their appreciators would enjoy this….

Neptune Towers "Caravans to 'Empire Algol"
Moonfog Productions

Fenris' solo project sees the light of the stars. Beyond what he's ever done before through **Darkthrone** and **Isengard** (and **Storm**, **Dødenheimsgard**, etc., etc., etc.), **Neptune Towers** is a journey through space and the astral sphere though one's mind. Trance and solitaire embelishment. The obvious influence here is Klaus Schulze, this being nearly identical to some of his works from the late 70s…that is experimental composition through synthesis…no percussion exists upon **Neptune** however. Fortunatley this is the first in a two part series upon this theme…after then I am unsure.

Absu "The Sun of Tiphareth"
Osmose

Absu return with this second LP, this time upon the mighty Osmose altar. This is quite a variation from their last effort "V.I.T.R.O.L", on Gothic…it seems that the band caught the mid-80s thrash plague that is spreading currently (Yezzzz…). Any fan of **Kreator**, **Destruction** and old **Slayer** will really enjoy this great album, as will **Cradle fo Filth** (arguably their main influence vocally) and **Marduk** (great fast parts). Also these occultists use what is rare these days, great lyrics dealing with all sorts of mysteries and paths. Subte use of keyboards and acoustics in the "correct" places add the final touch on this quality album. Oh, **Absu** will tour Europe in April and May with the perverts, **Sadistik Exekution** and also **Bestial Warlust**.

Melvins "Prick"
Amphetamine Reptile Records

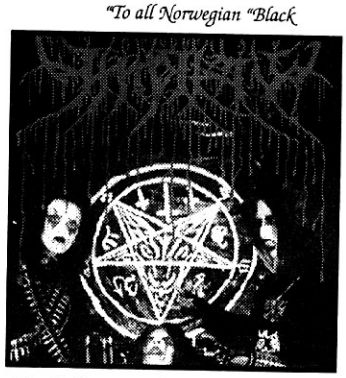
OK. This CD is one big inside joke. And I guess that's why I don't find it funny. **Melvins** always seemed to be fresh and one step ahead of the game but this just reaks of staleness - No **Melvins** music. Just them far too stones fucking around in the studio wasting time, money and natural resources. And if that's not bad enough it's on Amphetamine Reptile. [T.D.](I actually kind of like it…-ed.)

Galcial Fear "Secrets at the Steam Forest"
7"EP
Occult Shop

This Italian release gives us a look into this new band…unfortunatley there isn't much substance here…. Musically, perhaps a bad version of **Messugah** might suffice…there exist some pretty interesting gutar and keyboard parts but the vocals really destroy the feel of this. Not much more to say really. Order: c/o Mole Gianluca, Via Conti di Loritello, 13, 88060 S. Maria di Can Tanzaro, Italy.

Impiety "Salve the Goat: Iblis Exelsi" 7"
Shivadarshana Records

"To all Norwegian "Black



Metal" clowns, we desecrate your so-called Northern kingdom and Sky of white Falseness…after which, we baptise all of these in Piss!!!!"…Well, well, well; quite a bold statement to print on the back of their 7". This is the epitomy of black metal, raw imperfect music, band members with names like "Kerophiliac Rex, Personal sodomizer of bitch-mother Mary", songs entitled "Cuntblasphemy…" and "Goatsodomy"…hey it was even recorded at "The Womb of Leftness, Studio 666"…need I say more?

The 3rd and the Mortal "Tears Laid in 'Earth"
Head Not Found Productions

Once again Metalion releases a competent disc from this unique act. If you expect raw harsh music then stay away…this is rather soft and relaxing…very mellow and Melodramatic. Vocals via Kari might be compared to Kate Bush a bit (especially on this full lenght) while the music is rather dreamy and emotional…perhaps I would call this doom yet **The 3rd**…go beyond to incorporate a barrage of emotions, effectively and honestly. The latest news is that Kari has left the band to add her voice to the anticipated **Storm** project…so I am unclear of the future of this act….

Ildjarn-Nidhogg "Norse" 7"
Nocturnal Art Productions

After two interesting demos, Ildjarn gives us this 7" courtesy of Samoth's N.A.P. Once again the nore pride topic is clearly evident…with the skins at attention, and through the song titles. Musically the **Bathory** prescence is here once again…although upon this 7" them usic is much rwer…really good actually. If you haven't heard this yet I suggest that you pick it up, if it's not already sold out.

Sigh/Kawir split 7"
Cacophonous Records

Well, I've been waiting for this

one for a long time…and it was well worth it. **Sigh** performs their most incredible material yet…an all out attack fueled by the old thrash lords. An amazing tribute to old **Slayer** and Kreator. **Kawir** (featuring Stephan from **Varathron**) give us some great atmospheric greek metal…all in a great 7".

When "The Black Death"
Head Not Found

The artist Theodor Kittelsen will no doubt be well known to most all of the readers as it is his artwork which graces the most recent **Burzum** LP "Hvis Lyset…"! Kittelsen lived from 1857-1914 and his drawings can also be found in this release from **When**. **When** is one Lars Pedersen and this seems to be his interpretation of Svartedauen by Kittelsen. The instruments used are keyboards, harp, cello, percussion and voices. The music is one piece almost 40 minutes long consisting of almost chapters as the music differs greatly in parts. Imagine being trapped in a room full of rats, lying on bed awake for fear of unexplainable sounds fighting off demons plodding across the land in a snowstorm. These might be just some of the visions assaulting your mind while listening to this disc. TATRA, Box 96, N-1450 Nesoddtangen, Norway.

Allerseelen "Cruor"

This is a compilaton of selections from Kadmon's various works over the years - all of which should still be available in thier entirety from AORTA. 14 songs here, most of which I throughly enjoyed. All music, no vocals, most of which seem to be quite repetetive, thus hypnotic and wondrful for certain states of consciousness. Songs here honoring the occultic, the pagan, the mystical and the magical. If you've not heard "industrial" musick before this may be the perfect place to start. C/O Pertak, Postfach 778, A-1011 Wien, Austria

Ancient "Svartalvheim"
Listenable Records

After much trouble and shuffling around between labels **Ancient** finally released their debut and what and album it is. **Ancient** succeede 100% in capturing a unique and original sound…mixing "heavy" riffing with plenty of atmospheric strucutres and ideas. Their use of acoustic guitar and keyboards is done in a no -"traditional" manner which amounts in a very effective display of emotion and mystic sound. Raw vocals accent th music nearly perfect…translation: if you have an interest in atmospheric and powerful metal **Ancient** is for you.

Elend "Leçons de Ténèbres"
Holy Records

From the label known best for it's mammoth doom releases comes this picece of surprisingly experimental music. What we have here is a collaboration between 2 classically trained violinists and a soprano (female) vocalist. Through the use of these elements plus orchestral synthesis, spoken parts, and moody atmospheres which combine to create quite an ambient neo-classical work. Particularly of interest (listen up Mortiis) is the concept of this album, which revolves around the classic "Paradise Lost" theme, with a lot of the lyrics drawn from Miltons work of the same title…the music captures a feeling which is almost "angelic" ambience…not for all, but whom it is for will appreciate this disc.

The Black "The Priest of Satan"
Necropolis Records

The anti-LaVeyans whom incorporate the sigil of Baphomet in their presentation bestow upon us this long delayed release. Sweden's rarest black metal act give us just that…uncompromising, violent, fast black metal. **The Black**'s use of keyboards in the intro and unfrequently in the songs is particularly interesting as are some of the slwer and mid-paced riffs…"unfortunatley" the overall impression I got from this disc is one of an album of high speed riffs with no individuality until the tenth track (the album title) kicks in…from then on the album is good.

Sadistic Intent "Ressurection"
Gothic records

Gothic Records seem to be releasing some pretty varied material these days. With this latest signing we get a cross of some old **Carnage** Swedish death metal sounds and some mid to late **Carcass** sounds…nothing more nothing less. Brings back some memories….

Dawn "Naer Solen Gar Niber For Evogher"
Necropolis Records

Well, this is a 300% improvement on their last demo…what we have here is fast black metal in the **Marduk** vein. There are some strange harmonic guitar collaborations on this which prove of interest. Actually, I'd have to say that this amounts to little more than homage to **Marduk**'s "Those of the Unlight"…the guitars, "nocturnal vampyric chantings," and rythms sound quite similar to say the least…good but listen to **Marduk** if you want the original version.

Marduk "Opus Nocturne"
Osmose

…Speak of the devil and he shall appear. **Marduk**'s third opus greets skeptic ears. You see I wasn't much impressed with their last album in comparison to their first ("Those of the Unlight" and "Dark Endless" respectively)…however I was mightily impressed by their epic praise to the night on this disc. Excellent muscisianship is the first thing I noticed about this album…each violent riff played effectively and in great combination with the drums. Harsh, raw vocals (which are imitated by many these days) accent this unique black metal in an extreme way…top notch. This band will be one of the first to break the barrier in this massive death metal market (along with **Cradle of Filth** and **Impaled Nazarene**)…if my divination is correct.

Moonspell 7"
Molon Lave Records

After an aboriginal/hindu type spell chanting intro, this band summons a fairly dark and heavy - although

monotonous -sound. The guitars are laid back…but come out in medieval-type strumming at times. With keyboards, whispers, occult grind vocals (which incidentally are really good) and a huge up-side-down pentagram on the back of their demo…not to mention songtitles like "Goats on Fire," this band is a pretty typical, though slower, black metal band. Great **Celtic Frost** rythms. You can't go wrong with this one. [R.G.]

Opera IX "The Triumph of the Death" 7"
Wimp Records

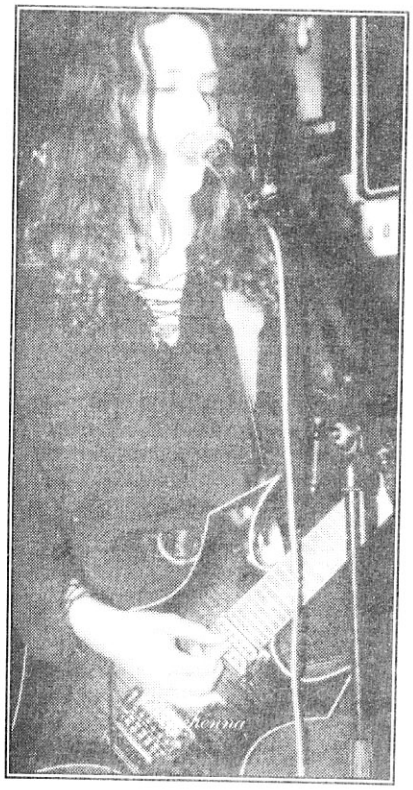
Ahh…my all-time favorite female vocalist!!!! Cadaveria delivers intense growling vocals that are sure to get

inside your skull and shrink your brain 2 sizes. Absolute terror is only part of the feeling this intense release creates in me. The music is fast and heavy, yet very clear…it has crystal clean guitar solos and death metalish beats at times. This surely is the

untraditional, mystical opera…a must hear for all. [R.G.]

Gehenna "Ancestors of the Darkly Sky" 7" Necromantic Gallery Productions

Excellent. This is, in my opinion, one of the best new bands from Norway. A great 7" consisting of 2 songs plus intro and outro. Great sounding, rasping vocals; dark and heavy with a definite black metal feel, yet original and ancient at times. The keyboards on this 7" are especially good and folklorish in some parts, but I hear they have added a new keyboard player whom is supposed to be even better. Look for their full lenght debut on Head Not Found later this year…highly recommended. [R.G.]



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cold meat industry

Karmanic Collection

This may be something a little out of the ordinary for some, but some of it is well worth your time. Cold Meat, take note, will soon be releasing **Mortiis** and **Aghast** so stay tuned. This disc has 14 CMI artists and it contains a variety of styles. An informative booklet tells about each band, background, idologies, and discographies. If you can make it past the first few tracks, or skip right over them, you will come to some excellent compositions from the likes of **Brighter Death Now** (confusing fuzzy and dark) - **Ordo Equilirio** ("bleak monotones w/occasional vacals and accoustic instruments") - **In Slaughter Natives** (yet another atmospheric track with wonderful female voice and lavey layers) - **Archon Satani** (who draw heavily from both Crowly and LaVey give us a somber and reflective track) - **Morthond** (who wrap this up with an excellent dreamy, transcedent track sprinkeled with heavy doses of eastern influence).

Also from CMI this time we have **Raison D'Être** "Enthraled by the Winds of Loneliness." 7 tracks of absolutely wonderful dreamy atmospheric scapes which would be appropriate music for tours thru haunted cathedrals and catacombs.

Another CMI release **Brighter Death Now** 2CD box which I belive is a relrelease of their first two albums. Perverse, disturbing, down right silly in parts, frightening in others. There is a bit of it all in here.

Look for many more great reviews of CMI releases in the next issue.

Cold Meat Industry
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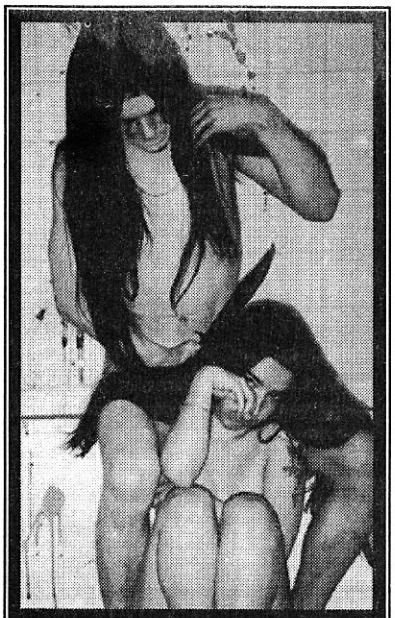

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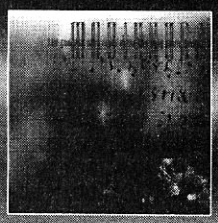

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V KADMON: SCHWARZKOGLER. Traktat über den österreichischen Aktionist und Mystiker Rudolf Schwarzkogler/Tract about the Austrian Aktionist and mystician Rudolf Schwarzkogler (1.940-1.969). Interviews: Edith Adam, Heinz Cibulka, Hermann Nitsch, Peter Weibel.

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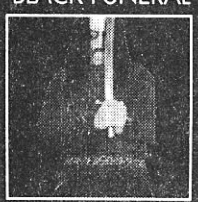

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